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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
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INSIDE



Gold Rush

A new kind of gold rush is unfolding at jewelry store and pawn shop counters.

BUSINESS...Page 14

Not Guilty

Ousted Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra pleaded not guilty Wednesday before the Supreme Court in one of two criminal corruption cases against him.

ASIA...Page 16



Dancing Matlin

Marlee Matlin had never danced before but for the past two weeks, she's been doing just that.

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NMC's elem. education program reaccredited. **PAGE 5**

Glad says IMC was stabbed in the back. **PAGE 6**

Hotel occupancy rises in Feb.

It was another month of welcome news for the islands' hospitality industry as the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported a year-over-year room occupancy increase in February 2008.

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SUGAR KING PROJECT

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela is seen through a concrete hollow block talking to U.S. Housing and Urban Development's Rebecca Borja and Marianas Island Housing Authority director Joshua Sasamoto, at the construction site for a new food courtyard at the Sugar King Estate Wednesday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Miura extradition OK'd

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed yesterday the arrest warrant for the extradition of Japanese businessman Kazuyoshi Miura.

Fitial commanded CNMI law enforcers to "arrest, detain, extradite, and or convey" Miura to the Los Angeles Police Department's chief of police



Miura

or designated agents who are authorized to transport the defendant to California.

In the warrant, the governor stated that on Feb. 25, 2008, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Norm Shapiro issued a warrant of arrest against Miura based on a felony complaint supported by a sworn affidavit made before a magistrate

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NMI govt rallies aid vs new federalization bill

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Fitial administration is soliciting the help of the 16th Legislature and the local business community to fend off a proposed federal takeover of the CNMI's immigration system.

Reacting to reports that a new

omnibus bill will be introduced in the U.S. Senate in a matter of weeks, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's press secretary Charles P. Reyes said the administration will not take this sitting down and hopes that its efforts will be supported by local lawmakers, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Hotel

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Drowning top killer of kids in Asia

By **MARGIE MASON**
AP MEDICAL WRITER

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Drowning is a top killer of children in Asia, but the problem is often overlooked in poor countries plagued by deaths caused by speeding cars, suffocation and other accidents, according to a report released Tuesday.

Nearly 2.5 million people were surveyed in Bangladesh, China, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam by UNICEF and the Alliance for Safe Children, a

See **DROWNING** on Page 4



Boys cling to a slow moving passenger jeepney as it passes through floodwaters in Manila, Philippines in this Aug. 17, 2007 file photo.

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Local



Hopwood students win Academic Bowl tourney

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the first time in CNMI Academic Bowl Challenge history, a public school beat out other public and private schools to capture the crown.

The Hopwood Junior High School team was represented by Jessie Joseph Santos, Marjorie Ann Cuervo, Rachel Cabrera, Lallane Guiao and Edu Mari Banaag.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Hopwood Junior High School bested nine other schools in this year's challenge.

Hopwood Jr. High's coach Sharleen Crisostimo said that she was more nervous than her own students during the event. She added that she wanted to cry when she learned her school came in first.

The Hopwood team included Lallane Guiao, eighth grade; Jessie Santos, seventh grade; Rachel Cabrera, eighth grade; Edu Banaag, eighth grade; and Marjorie Cuervo, seventh grade.

Crisostimo said the Hopwood team prepared for three weeks. For next year's challenge, the team will stick to its usual practice but for a much longer period.

"I think that for any team who wins first place, there is an expectation to win again next year. ... We will try our best and have fun in the process [next year]," said Crisostimo.

The school received a trophy and each participating student received a smaller one to take home, along with waterpark passes.

Ascoach, Crisostimo received

lunch buffet gift certificates to the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

In the past years, the Hopwood team placed second and third.

"This is the first time that a public school won first place. And we are very proud of all our students," Crisostimo said.

Acting principal Christine Tudela-Masga said Crisostimo, who is the adviser for Hopwood's school and community events, worked hard with the students "as she always does every year."

"We are very proud of our students and Ms. Sharleen. Our students this year showed dedication and enthusiasm for learning and preparing for this event," Tudela-Masga said.

The Saipan Southern High School Chapter of the National Honor Society hosted the sixth annual academic challenge bowl for the junior high school division.

The purpose of the competition is to promote scholastic achievement and to provide a venue for junior high school students to compete amongst their peers.

Japanese soba restaurant eyeing branch on Saipan

Japanese soba restaurant Okada wants to open a branch on Saipan and its owner and namesake Toshimitsu Okada is looking for a prospective location to set up shop.

Okada Corporation Group owns two restaurants in Japan—Okada and Carve Kakureya—and hopes to add a third and its first off-island sortie on Saipan, to be named Okadaya.

Okada currently serves its handmade buckwheat noodles as an action station at Aqua Resort Club's Champagne Sunday Brunch. Japanese expatriates and local who enjoy authen-

tic Japanese soba can sample the delicious treat on two more dates—March 16 and 30.

Okada brought with him his daughter, Mayumi Suzuki, the restaurant's president, and Shunsuke Katagiri, expert noodle-maker and Okada operations manager, to Saipan to start the venture.

Okada makes its Japanese soba from scratch with fresh and authentic ingredients imported from Japan. The making of handmade buckwheat noodles also takes at least an hour with noodle-makers using traditional methods and equipment. (Mark Rabago)



MARK RABAGO

Shunsuke Katagiri, expert noodle-maker and Okada operations manager, making Japanese soba at the Aqua Resort Club's Champagne Sunday Brunch.

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'It is always good to come back home'

BY FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thus stated former police major and congressman Claudio K. Norita during his first day of of-

fice yesterday as the new commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.

"I'm happy!" said Norita, who was appointed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial Tuesday as replacement for former prosecutor Rebecca Warfield.

Norita immediately met with the DPS command staff yesterday morning to sort out some issues and get the officers' inputs.

"My next step is to meet with them individually and talk about where we want to go as a department and so forth and how to deliver effective ser-

vices," the new commissioner told *Saipan Tribune*.

Norita said they are definitely going to revisit the department's key operation units such as patrol, criminal investigation, emergency management services, fire division, and motor vehicle.

He said they are going to invest a lot of DPS resources into key operations units that, according to him, "are primary units that have direct community contact."

"We need to emphasize working with these units and ensuring that the service that they deliver is

the best service that we can offer to the community," he said.

Norita said DPS has limited resources, but they will make the best with what they've got.

With respect to the small units, the commissioner said they are going to get them multi-tasking with bigger units so they can perform additional responsibilities rather than just a single function.

"I want to start to revisit community policing which is to me the best way to build trust and communication with our community," he added.

Norita retired as a police major in December 2002. After his retirement he was elected as a House representative. After serving as executive director for the Commonwealth Ports Authority for a few months, he resigned.

Saipan, Tinian gain more visitors, Rota still down

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Saipan and Tinian continued to have growth in tourist arrivals in February 2008 even as Rota posted a decrease in numbers for the third consecutive month, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Saipan, the CNMI's capital, enjoyed a 6-percent upswing in tourist arrivals at 39,731 last month, compared to 37,608 during the same period last year.

The robust Korea market led the way with a 44-percent increase at 11,115 compared to 7,721 in February 2007.

Tourist arrivals to Saipan from the main market of Japan registered a 4-percent drop to 17,974 (19,413 a year ago), while Guam and Russia enjoyed 4 percent (1,333) and 99 percent (342) growth last month.

The markets of China (-19 percent to 5,908), the United States (-7 percent to 599), the Philippines (-79 percent to 110), Taiwan (-64 percent to 21), and "Others" (-10 percent

to 186) all recorded declines in visitor arrivals last month.

Tinian, for its part, saw a third straight month of tourist arrival growth when it registered an 11-percent hike in February 2008 to 6,409 from 5,777 a year ago.

All markets improved last month led by the U.S. (+117 percent), Korea (+47 percent), Guam (+26 percent), Japan (+16 percent), and China (+12 percent). Only tourist arrivals from Saipan slid in February 2008 (-13 percent).

After an 11-percent drop in December, followed by a 5-percent dip in January, Rota faced a 2-percent decrease in visitor arrivals last month, as the northernmost part of the CNMI chain welcomed only 906 guests in February 2008 compared to 920 a year ago.

The Korea market saw a 52 percent growth that was offset by the 43 percent loss in the Philippine market and the 36 percent decline from the Japan market. U.S. and "Others" markets posted an identical 4 percent growth last month.

Heinz at Sabalu Market this weekend

A Saipan lawmaker will be at the Sabalu Market this Saturday not to sell produce, but rather to peddle legislative ideas that he has introduced at the 16th House of Representatives.

Rep. Heinz Hofschneider will be at the Sabalu Market this Saturday, March 15, from 6:30am to 8:30am, with an informational display of the five initiatives that he has introduced, which pertain to the downsizing of the Legislature, amendments to Article XII, and a proposal to allow the government to borrow money for operations to address the CNMI's power crisis.

Copies of the initiatives introduced by the former House speaker will be made available to the public, and Hofschneider

will also be conducting a survey to help assess public opinion on the proposals. His office can be reached at 664-8830 for more information. (Mark Rabago)

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Madan M. Kundu, Ph.D. is the Project Director of RRIUP and Chair and Professor of the Department of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies, Southern University. His areas of research interest are: multicultural/cultural diversity issues, placement models, prediction models for rehabilitation outcome, traumatic brain injury, and independent living.

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MVA back from Busan Road Show

The Marianas Visitors Authority, along with the Korean Tour Association of Saipan, just returned from the Busan Road Show March in Busan, Korea. The event took place at the Lotte Hotel Busan. MVA participated in the show to promote the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota in Korea's

southern regions.

Approximately 300 people attended the show, including travel trade partners, tour agencies and the media. Using teleconferencing technology, the show opened with remarks from MVA managing director Perry Tenorio while he was on Saipan. Hyung-

Shin Baek, general manager of Asiana Airlines Busan office, thanked MVA and KTAS for their efforts in organizing the event.

The show itself was divided into three sessions, including an open marketplace where the attendees visited booths, official presentations by MVA

Korea, and dinner and entertainment.

Seven hotels and five optional tour companies from the CNMI participated in the show. They included Aqua Resort Club, Mariana Resort & Spa, Fiesta Resort and Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Saipan World Resort, Tinian Dynasty Hotel, Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort, King Fisher Golf Links, Star ATV, Submarine Tour and Pearl Shop.

Participating travel agents who attended said that the show was very productive and they gained sufficient information from the presentation prepared by MVA Korea, which gave them general information about the

islands and 10 reasons why tourists should choose the Marianas. The MVA's marketing plans and strategies for 2008 were also highlighted to the participants. The travel agents also found the "open marketplace" session prepared by the hotels and optional tour operators very helpful.

"MVA was pleased to be part of a great show," said Tenorio. "Our Korean arrivals continue to increase by double digits monthly and having strong presence in Busan continues to remind the outbound Korean travelers from southern regions that our islands are an option when they plan their travel." (MVA)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Marianas Visitors Authority and the Korean Tour Association of Saipan participate in the Busan Road Show at the Lotte Hotel Busan in Busan, Korea.

DROWNING

From Page 1

U.S.-based aid group. The survey found injuries were the leading cause of death in children older than one year.

Drowning was the top cause of injury-related deaths in all countries, accounting for about half of all cases.

But the report said drowning was largely missing from child mortality statistics because many children who drown are often never taken to hospitals.

"You have this child floating face-down in a pond, and you don't take it

to a hospital," said Dr. Michael Linnan, a co-author and technical director of the Alliance for Safe Children. "So that death never shows up."

The Asia-Pacific region is home to vast coasts and waterways, yet many people cannot swim. Thousands drown every year during powerful typhoons, monsoon floods or simply from falling into rivers or ponds. Linnan estimated about 240,000 children up to 17 years old drown each year across the region.

He said governments should raise community awareness about the need to better supervise small children around water and teach them how to swim. He said the Alliance for Safe

Children was involved in a program in Bangladesh that has taught 23,000 children to swim and there were plans to duplicate it nationally.

"It's like immunizations," Linnan said. "You provide them with this life-long protective ability."

Child mortality from infectious diseases in developing Asian countries has dropped sharply in recent years, thanks to greater access to vaccines along with work to decrease diarrhea and respiratory diseases. Improvements in nutrition have also helped.

Babies are still at the highest risk of dying during their first month of life, and disease poses the biggest threat

during their first year. But injuries are the biggest danger from then on.

Boys are more at risk of being killed by injuries than girls, while children living in rural areas are more likely to die from accidents than those in cities. The survey looks at children from birth to 17 years old. Data was collected in rural and urban areas nationwide in all countries except China, where large samples were surveyed in Beijing and southern Jiangxi province.

Road accidents were the second-biggest killer of children in the countries surveyed, where traffic is typically congested and chaotic and laws are often ignored. The highest number of traffic

deaths occur in the teen years.

"Road traffic is a major, major issue in countries like Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia," said Hisashi Ogawa, regional adviser for healthy settings and environment at the World Health Organization's Western Pacific office. "It's not just kids on bikes, but also kids on the streets," said Ogawa, who was not involved in the study.

Ogawa said much emphasis has recently been directed at Vietnam, where motorbikes are the primary mode of transportation. A helmet law went into effect in December, but a loophole exists exempting children and their parents from fines for riding without helmets.

NMI

From Page 1

Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and other business groups.

"The [Fitial] administration continues to work with the Legislature and the local business community to address this issue with federal lawmakers in Washington, D.C. We are determined to protect the economic

viability of the Commonwealth and to ensure that these islands have adequate access to workers, students, investors, tourists, and other customers," he said.

According to a congressional staff source, the new omnibus bill containing the CNMI immigration provisions will take the place of the derailed S. 2483.

The new bill will be similar to, but longer than, S. 2483. It will also have

several additional sections, or bills, the source said.

S. 2483—the bill placing local immigration under federal control—fell off track after it got mired in the gun control debate and national politics last month. This happened after Sen. Tom Coburn proposed an amendment allowing guns in public parks—a controversial issue especially in an election year.

Title VII of the omnibus package,

S. 2483, contains the exact text of H.R. 3079 as passed by the House on Dec. 12, 2007, and as approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee last month.

The bill, made up of some 50 House-approved bills, would extend immigration law to the Northern Marianas and create a federally run guest-worker program in the Commonwealth. It would also give the CNMI a delegate in the House with

limited voting powers. Currently, all U.S. possessions except the CNMI have a delegate in Congress.

Before adjourning in December, the Senate adopted a unanimous consent agreement governing debate on S. 2483, limiting the number of amendments that may be offered on the Senate floor to five amendments. The amendments that Coburn made address aspects apart from the CNMI title.

MIURA

From Page 1

in the State of California.

The complaint charged the 60-year-old businessman with murder and conspiracy to commit murder, both punishable by death or life imprisonment.

Shapiro's arrest warrant requested that Miura be held without bail.

Fitial received on Tuesday Califor-

nia Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's demand for Miura's extradition. It was dated March 5, 2008.

Fitial said the extradition demand stated that Miura was present in California on Nov. 18, 1981, when the murder happened and subsequently fled the jurisdiction.

Fitial, through press secretary Charles Reyes Jr., told *Saipan Tribune* that the CNMI government is on track to extradite Miura to Los Angeles.

"We are making progress in pur-

suing this case and in going through the procedures. We're making a steady and significant progress," Reyes said.

He said that Fitial signed the arrest warrant at the recommendation of Attorney General Matthew Gregory shortly before lunch yesterday.

Schwarzenegger's formal extradition request arrived at Fitial's office Tuesday.

With the signing of the arrest warrant, Reyes said the government expects that

this will be immediately served upon Miura and his attorneys.

"And we expect that this will be filed in court as well," Reyes said. "The governor had already done his part."

At the next hearing scheduled March 19, Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona will determine whether or not an actual warrant has already been signed.

Miura was convicted in Japan in 1994 for the murder of his wife in Los Angeles 27 years ago. But Japan's

Supreme Court overturned the defendant's conviction on appeal.

Celebrity attorney Mark Geragos recently joined Miura's three Saipan attorneys—Bruce Berline, Mark Hanson, and William Fitzgerald—on the defense team. He said his goal is to get the charges in LA dismissed on grounds of double jeopardy.

Geragos said that, although the trial was held in Japan, he believes U.S. law still prevents Miura from being tried again for the same crime.

HOTEL

From Page 1

With 14 hotels reporting an average of 76.16 percent occupancy, February 2008 beat last year's 73.61 percent by just more than 3 points. Room nights sold in February 2008 were up 62,767 versus 58,577 from February 2007.

The CNMI benefited last month

from more flights from Korea and Osaka, Japan, that the islands did not have in 2007. Additionally, Saipan hosted a large group of extended stay Japanese media, while the island continued to host more honeymooners and small golf groups from Korea, as well as Russian tourists.

The average room rate, \$97.05, was also up \$2.64, compared to the February 2007 rate of \$94.41. Yet the February

2008 room rate was down over the January 2008 rate of \$109.70.

Although room occupancy and rates have started to improve overall, with year-to-date room nights sold at 68,088 vs. 63,784 at this time in 2007, February 2008 room occupancy was down by more than 5,000 rooms compared to January 2008.

The association noted that February is normally one of the busiest months of the year, when tourists from Asia come

to enjoy the warm tropical weather and beat bitter cold winters in Japan, Korea, China and Russia.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands has more than 30 members, including both hotels and allied members that do business with the industry.

The association will have two special events in the coming weeks. The organization had just announced that it

will co-host a fundraising concert featuring ukulele virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro with Beautify CNMI on March 27 at Saipan World Resort.

The association will also host its 7th Annual HANMI Charity Classic golf tournament on April 5. For more information, contact HANMI chairwoman Lynn Knight in care of the Century Hotel at lynn_knight@tanholdings.com. (HANMI)

NMC's elem. education program reaccredited

The Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities has decided to continue the accreditation of the Northern Marianas College's degree program in Elementary Education.

ACSCU president and executive director Ralph A. Wolff said that the accrediting commission considered the report on the college's four-year Bachelor of Science Degree Program in Elementary Education and decided to go ahead with its continued accreditation during a commission meeting on Feb. 21, 2008.

The report was submitted by an ACSCU-appointed member of the visiting team.

Wolff indicated that the move was based on a series of accomplishments that the NMC School of Education has achieved, including:

■ The School of Education has made curricular changes based on assessment findings and will be the first program at NMC to submit a complete assessment report.

■ The School of Education has become engaged as a partner in campus-wide assessment efforts, and in this way, has become less isolated from the rest of the campus community.

■ A new director of the School of Education has been installed and previously overwhelming workloads are being redistributed

■ The School of Education's relations with the CNMI Public School System have improved.

The ACSCU of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges is responsible for evaluating the quality and effectiveness

of colleges and universities offering bachelor degrees.

The accreditation from the Senior College Commission for

the bachelor's program relies on the underlying institutional accreditation from ACCJC, and is therefore conditional upon an

accreditation reaffirmation from ACCJC.

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez said that the college is "extremely proud of the significant progress that the School of Education has made and the

recognition it has received from the accrediting commission."

"We will continue to build on this progress to ensure that our bachelor's degree program remains one of the most competitive in the region," she said. (NMC)

'Gateway fiasco to blame for current NMC woes'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Fitial administration believes the Northern Marianas College's Gateway Project, especially its \$7.5 million acquisition of the La Fiesta mall in San Roque, is one of the reasons why the CNMI's lone tertiary institution is currently in a heap of trouble.

In an email to the *Saipan Tribune*, the governor's press secretary Charles P. Reyes blamed former Gov. Juan N. Babauta's administration for the

mishandling of NMC and even described its acquisition of La Fiesta as a fiasco.

"The problems at NMC emerged even before this administration took office and even before the governor made NMC Board [of Regents] appointments. I believe the NMC Gateway fiasco has much to do with it. Millions of dollars were wasted," he said.

Reyes, however, said that the current leadership at the college is making steps to rectify the mistakes of the past and improve

NMC's downgraded status.

"The current NMC Board and president [Carmen] Fernandez are doing their very best to correct the problems of the past and present," he said.

And more help apparently is on its way, as the Senate last Friday during its regular session on Rota approved the nomination of former NMC president and one its founders, Agnes McPhetres, to replace the resigned Eloise A. Furey in NMC's Board of Regents.

In an interview Monday with the *Saipan Tribune*, McPhetres

said she is not surprised with the college's downgraded status.

McPhetres believes that the college's downgrading began when Dr. Kenneth Wright became its president and was caught in a pile of trouble with the Gateway Project.

The project, which aimed to attract foreign students to study at NMC, promised to bring in hundreds of million dollars a year to the college.

McPhetres, who had a 16-year career at NMC before leaving in 1999, will serve as regent until June 29, 2009.

Problem at power plants triggers rotating outages

Electrical problem at Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico coupled with the ongoing mechanical repair at Power Plant 1 in Lower Base triggered more outages yesterday morning.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. started implementing another load shedding at 7:43am when Power Plant 4 experienced an electrical problem on engine no. 5.

At 12:05pm CUC stopped the power load shedding.

CUC acting power manager Gary P. Camacho said that when the outage happened, there was an ongoing final repair on engine no. 5 at the Lower Base power plant.

Camacho said Power Plant 1 failed to recover the electrical generation needed to adequately meet the island's power demand.

"Because of the immediate loss of electrical generation, the CUC plant operators were required to commence emergency load shedding," he explained.

The acting power manager said the necessary repair at Power Plant 4 was immediately initiated and completed at 9:45am.

Repairs at Power Plant 1 were completed at 11:25am.

"CUC makes all efforts not to include the school system in any load shedding schedule. However, there are uncontrollable situations that may require us to do so," Camacho said.

Among the affected areas were Lower China Town, and Upper Miha, Marianas Heights.

The mechanical problem in engine no. 6 at the Lower Base Plant triggered rolling outages and affected four public schools Tuesday. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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Glad says IMC was stabbed in the back

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Island Medical Center in Susupe, which is operated by the Micronesian Health Corp., says it was stabbed in the back by its employee of nine years.

In an interview with the *Saipan Tribune*, IMC owner Tony Glad said that Romeo Dolot, who was the clinic's accounts manager, fled Saipan on March 6, a day after the Bureau of Environmental Health ordered the clinic to close down its business due to alleged noncompliance with rules and regulations.

According to Glad, Dolot managed the clinic's daily operations and took charge of the clinic's financial accounts.

Glad also said the clinic suspects Dolot of possibly tampering alien workers' health results.

The suspension order, issued by Public Health Secretary

Kevin Villagomez, stated that the "unlawful pattern or practice of issuing health certificates either without blood screening tests or on the basis of false, forged and/or altered lab test documentary results" resulted in the clinic's closure.

Glad said that this is the first time in nine years of operation that the clinic received such a citation.

"We have never violated any federal regulations. Otherwise, they will not allow us to move further with business," Glad said.

In January 2008, DPH had endorsed the Island Medical Center to service Medicaid patients.

Glad said Dolot's fleeing Saipan led him to believe that it has something to do with the clinic's closure.

"We are conducting our own investigation, which will require a two-day work," Glad said.

Today will be the first time Glad will enter his clinic since it

closed last week. He will be accompanied by BEH personnel.

He said he will go through the clinic's financial records and medical practice records and he hopes to find something that might shed some light on the clinic's untimely closure.

Glad said he first became suspicious of Dolot in 2004 when the employee bought a brand new car worth up to \$15,000.

He said he asked for help from a former employee, Art Moore who worked with the clinic's administrative staff, to check the clinic's accounting system and records.

"We found that there were many irregularities in our finances. I should have known. I should have terminated him [Dolot] a lot sooner when I had the chance," Glad said.

An administrative hearing for the clinic is scheduled this Friday. There, based on investigations and reports, a decision will be made as to whether the clinic

will reopen or remain closed.

"We are very hopeful that they will allow us to reopen our clinic doors and continue to serve the people here," Glad said.

"We're not denying that that the clinic had violated sanitation rules and regulations, but we are also not agreeing to it," Glad said.

Glad said that if the clinic were to reopen, there would be more stringent procedures implemented as well as the replacement of at least half of its employees.

Glad, who was on his way to California, learned of the clinic's suspension from the clinic's all-around physician Dr. H. Christine Brown.

"I was transiting in South Korea that same day when I got the news," he said.

He said he was on his way to meet with people who might be interested in developing ties with the CNMI.

"Here I am, trying to help the CNMI in its economic downturn, with my own money, and this is what I get. I feel very betrayed," Glad said.

Glad introduced Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela to two mayors

in India, which led to the signing of two-sister cities agreements with the CNMI.

Glad said he is putting all of his other projects on hold until he gets the issues dealing with his clinic squared away.

Federal jury finds man in fake marriage guilty

A federal jury rendered a guilty verdict yesterday against a man who engaged in a sham marriage to obtain an Immediate Relative status.

After deliberating for two days, the 12 jurors found Mohammad Ruhul Amin, a Bangladeshi, guilty of conspiracy to defraud the U.S., false statement in application for a passport, and subornation of perjury.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson set the sentencing for June 17, 2008 at 9am and ordered the U.S. Probation Office to submit a pre-sentence investigation report on or before May 13, 2008.

Munson remanded the defendant back to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Assistant Attorney General Eric O'Malley prosecuted the case. Attorney Colin Thompson served as counsel for Amin.

Amin married Rose Mayo Reyes, a U.S. citizen, on May 9, 2007. O'Malley said the purpose of the marriage was to enable Amin to obtain IR status

under the CNMI immigration laws. In exchange for the marriage, Amin allegedly provided Reyes with money and gifts worth several hundred dollars. O'Malley said the two never lived and never intended to live together as husband and wife.

On Aug. 23, 2007, Amin asked Reyes to submit an application for her U.S. passport that would identify him as Reyes' spouse.

On that day, Reyes submitted a Form DS-11 indicating that she was married to Amin, replacing her family name with his, to the U.S. Passport Office on Saipan.

The prosecutor alleged that when submitting the Form DS-11, Reyes signed and swore under penalty of perjury that the statements were true and correct.

Last March 5, the 24-year-old Reyes pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting an attempted illegal entry into the U.S. Reyes' sentencing was set for June 10, 2008 at 9am. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Update sought on park erosion mitigation plan

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 9th Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council has asked the American Memorial Park to be apprised of efforts being made to address erosion concerns at the Micro Beach area.

In particular, the council seeks to obtain a copy of a proposed 3-5 year strategic plan that the National Parks Service is reportedly developing with the Coral Reef Management Office to mitigate shoreline erosion in the area.

In a March 11, 2008, letter to AMP superintendent Sarah Creachbaum, council chair Antonia Tudela said the council wants to be involved in the project so it can have a "better understanding of the issues, requirements, timelines, and constraints and resource needed to effectuate the plan."

Part of the proposed plan calls for the submission of a grant proposal for the Coral Reef Research in the U.S. Pacific waters.

The proposed planning grant would fund the estimated \$180,000 cost of the two-phased project: phase one is intended to develop a shoreline model based on data collected over the years and phase two will involve testing various engineered erosion mitigation designs "to ensure [that the] natural shoreline is maintained long-term at mini-

mal maintenance costs."

The council pointed out late last year that the entire facility next to the collapsed pathway at Micro Beach would have to be relocated soon; otherwise, it would suffer the same fate as the walkway "so long as the beach sand movement continues its natural course."

Tudela also suggested that it would be useful to incorporate in the plan the suggestions made by participants at the October 2006 public forum on the Micro Beach erosion and facility improvements.

Tudela cited a suggestion made by one of the forum participants about placing an underwater buffer to reduce wave activity on the shoreline.

"This should be evaluated as well as the suggestion to engage in periodic sand nourishment of the beach as a containment measure against erosion."

"The planned action to replace the collapsing encasement at the Outer Cove could perhaps be considered in tandem with the erosion dynamics at Micro Beach," Tudela said.

She also noted a collapsed breakwater on the northwestern part of the main causeway embankment facing the Charlie Dock harbor. "Is this included in NPS' planned repair at this time? If not, what would it take to cause the repair now or in the near future?"

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**Certified Angus
Steak Tasting
Saturday 11am - 1pm**

**Chicken Fryers
30# Sunland**

**\$34⁹⁹
/cs.**



**Chicken Leg Quarter
33#**

**\$22⁹⁹
/cs.**



**Pork Loin
Roast**

**\$2¹⁹
/lb.**



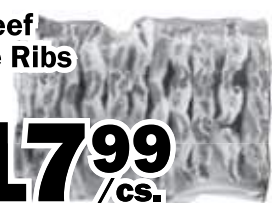
**US Beef
Rib-Eye
Steak CML**

**\$3⁷⁹
/lb.**



**US Beef
Spare Ribs
20#**

**\$17⁹⁹
/cs.**



**Bar-S
Hotdog
1#**

99¢



**Sapporo Ichiban Ramen
(Case)**

**\$7⁹⁹
/cs.**



**Bud/Budlight Beer
24/12 oz.
(Case)**

**\$22⁹⁹
/cs.**



**Asahi Super Dry
24/355 ml.
(Case)**

**\$26⁹⁵
/cs.**



Japan Products



**Mishima Furikake
Nori 55G Jpn
\$3¹⁴**



**Chikuma Miso Aka
Red 500G Jpn
\$3²³**



**Sun Flower
Sardines 15 oz. Jpn
\$2³³**

Produce



**Cucumber Local
80¢
/lb.**



**Onions, Yellow
47¢
/lb.**



**Potatoes, Russet
59¢
/lb.**



**Danjou Pear
\$1⁵⁹
/lb.**



**US Orange
83¢
/lb.**



**Fuji Apple
\$1³⁵
/lb.**

The Bake Shoppe Over Fresh Bakery

**Chamorro
Bread**

\$2⁰⁹



**French
Bread**

\$1⁵⁰



Frozen

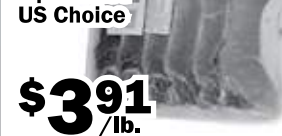
**Beef Flank Steak
Cml.**

**\$4²²
/lb.**



**Beef Sirloin
Tips Roast
US Choice**

**\$3⁹¹
/lb.**



**Beef Short-Ribs
Bone-In
Choice**

**\$3⁹⁸
/lb.**



**Pork Spareribs
4.3 Down US**

**\$2⁷⁹
/lb.**



Saba Hirake Jpn

**\$2⁹⁹
/lb.**



**Ham, Pork Spiral
Smoked Bone-In US**

**\$4⁴⁹
/lb.**



**Salted Mackerel
Japan Fillet**

**\$4⁹⁹
/lb.**



**Pike Mackerel
Sanma**

**\$3⁷⁹
/lb.**



**Cuttlefish Balls
8 oz.**

**\$1⁴⁹
/lb.**

Grocery



Spam Lite 12 oz.

**\$1⁸⁵
/lb.**



**Kool-Aid Tropical
Punch 5 lbs.**

\$7¹⁰



**Carnation Coffeemate
Export 16 oz.**

\$1⁵³



**DM Ketchup
24 oz.**

\$1⁷⁰



Tabasco 2 oz.

\$1³⁴



**Axxion Foam Plates
125 ct.**

\$6⁴⁸



**Supersoft Napkins
500 ct.**

\$4⁴¹



**Tide Liquid Detergent
W/B Mtn 100 oz.**

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**Pampers Baby First
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**Thomas & Friends
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Gekkeikan
Taruzake
500 ml**

\$8⁹⁹



**Sochu,
Takara Japan
700 ml Jpn**

\$10⁰⁷



**Jacob's Creek
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De Caceres
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750 ml**

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Merlot**

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'08 Businesswoman of the Year nominees

TAMUNING, Guam—The nominees for the third annual Businesswoman of the Year Maga'haga award program were announced yesterday by the award organizers.

Sponsored by First Hawaiian Bank and Guam Business, this award program brings recognition to businesswomen who have made a difference and raised the bar in the field in which they are involved.

The 2008 nominees are:

- Marie R. Bunao, manager, JC Café Restaurant on Tinian;
- Gloria C. Cavanagh, general manager, Guam International Country Club;
- Julienne R. Duenas, owner and clinical director, SOAR Physical Therapy;
- Barbara T. Evangelista, manager of dental facilities and materials, TakeCare Insurance Co. Inc.;
- Marie N. Guerrero, vice president, Planet Hollywood Guam;
- Siska S. Hutapea, vice president and managing director, Captain, Hutapea and Associates;
- June S. Mair, attorney, Mair, Mair, Spade and Thompson;
- Marilou L. Miguel, general manager, Great National Insurance;
- Karri T. Perez, president, EPS Resources Group;
- Suzanne Z. Perez, operations and marketing manager, Guam Premier Outlets;
- Leslie G. Rideout, district sales manager, Avon Products Inc.;
- Nancy A. Tan, assistant manager, First Net Insurance; and
- Juannet G. Torres, president, Creations Salon.

The Maga'haga Award will be presented at the Businesswoman of the Year gala on Saturday, April 26, 2008, at the Hyatt Regency Guam in conjunction with the release of the Guam Business May/June issue, featuring a commissioned photo study of the recipient on its cover.

Proceeds from the gala will fund scholarships at the University of Guam, Guam Community College, and Northern Marianas College.

Tickets for the April 26 award gala may be purchased from Alice O. Tamayo by calling 632-1161/2 or e-mailing aliot@guambakery.com.

Past recipients include Katherine Calvo Sgro, executive vice president and chairman of the board for Payless Markets Inc., 2006; and Christine Won Pat Baletto, general manager of Market Wholesale Distributors, 2007.

For any questions or inquiries, contact Faye Varias, editor of Guam Business at 671-649-0883 or gb_editor@glimpsesof-guam.com. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Businesswoman of the Year committee hosted a luncheon for the 2008 nominees, judges and beneficiaries, sponsored by the Hyatt Regency Guam on March 12, 2008. Pictured (from top left) are Kristal Koga, owner, The Kristal Kollection and president of the Overall Council of Women's Clubs, judge; Helen Whippy, interim president, University of Guam; Barbara T. Evangelista, nominee; Mary A.Y. Okada, president, Guam Community College; Doris Flores Brooks, Guam public auditor, judge; June S. Mair, nominee; Monica Pido, senior vice president of system operations, BankPacific and president of Guam Women's Club, judge; Leslie Rideout, nominee; Hanna Y. Lee, owner, Morning Glory and president of the Korean Women's Association of Guam, judge; Suzanne Z. Perez, nominee; Marilou Miguel, nominee; Gloria Cavanaugh, nominee; Nancy A. Tan, nominee; Siska Hutapea, nominee; Maureen N. Maratita, publisher, Glimpses Publications, judge; Marie Guerrero, nominee; Julienne Duenas, nominee; Juannet G. Torres, nominee; Flora Baza Quan, executive director, University of Guam Endowment Foundation; and Laura Lynn V. Dacanay, senior vice president and region manager, First Hawaiian Bank Guam and Saipan. Not pictured are nominees Karri Perez, and Marie Rose Bunao; and judges Kathy Calvo Sgro, executive vice president and chairman of the board for Payless Markets Inc., 2006 recipient; Christine Won Pat Baletto, general manager for Market Wholesale Distributors, 2007 recipient; Denise Mendiola, president of Soroptimist International of Marianas; and Setsuko Otake, president of the Japan Women's Club.

Guam road will be renamed to honor 'Seabee Betty'

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Navy will host a ceremony on March 14, 11am to officially unveil new signs and rename the main road of Camp Covington on U.S. Naval Base Guam from Seabee Dr. to Seabee Betty Dr.

The authority to rename the roadway, located within Guam's Seabee deployment base camp, was initiated by Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas, in cooperation with Navy Region Marianas and the 1st Naval Construction Division.

The act of renaming streets on naval installations requires approval by the Chief of Naval

Operations in Washington, D.C. This honor is reserved for heroes of combat, statesmen who supported the nation's defense and citizens whose extreme selflessness in the public arena resulted in significant and noteworthy quality of life and service benefits for members of the military.

Born in 1934 in the village of Yona, Vicenta Chargualaf Peredo, or "Seabee Betty," was a surrogate mother and true friend to thousands of Seabees deployed to Guam, beginning in World War II and extending until her death in 2003.

Hosting welcome and farewell

fiestas for Seabees deployed far from home was one of the many ways that Betty bridged the distance between military members and the Chamorro people. Her hospitality, kindness and extension of the Hafa Adai spirit helped countless Seabees endure the stress and strain of working long hours and being separated from loved ones.

A legend in her own time, Seabee Betty represented the warmth, generosity and inclusiveness indicative of Guam's culture. In her lifetime, she was recognized for her community service by numerous Chiefs of

Naval Operations, U.S. senators, admirals and generals from various military services, as well as U.S. presidents.

The Seabee Betty Dr. dedication ceremony will be attended by Rear Adm. Bill French, Commander Navy Region Marianas; Rear Adm. Michael Giorgione, Commander Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific; extended family members of Seabee Betty; and deployed Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Five who deployed to Guam in December from Port Hueneme, Calif. (USN)

Possible benefits for Prior Service recipients

The Prior Service Trust Fund Administration has issued a list of 235 individuals or their surviving spouse who may be eligible for Prior Service benefits.

Prior Service Trust Fund adviser Jerold F. Facey is requesting these individuals to contact his office about important information related to possible benefits.

"If you or your deceased spouse's name is listed and you worked for the U.S. Navy or Trust Territory government for five or more years before July 1, 1968, please call the Prior Service Office at 322-9753 only on

Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday between 8am and 12 noon.

"If your name is listed and you are still working for the government or private sector, please do not call until you retire," said Facey.

The Prior Service Office will be issuing the names on the list every three to five days, until all the names are published. Previous lists were published on March 5, 2008, and March 9, 2008.

- Diaz, Antonio Camacho
- Diaz, Rosa
- Dumale, Estefania A.
- Esteves, Jose I.

- Fejeran, Moses T.
- Fitial, Felix R.
- Flawau, Rita C.
- Guerrero, Jose C.
- Guerrero, Paulino
- Hoashi, Vicente
- Hocog, Antonio M.
- Hocog, Maria A.
- Ichihara, Jesus S.M.
- Iginoef, Juan
- Igisaiair, Andres T.
- Igisaiair, Gabriel
- Igitol, Pedro
- Igitol, Victorino N.
- Iglecias, Anselmo M.
- Indalecio, Maria M.
- Itaman, Jose E.
- Ito, Harumi

- Kaipat, Amada O.
- Kaipat, Silvestre R.
- Kani, Andres I.
- Kapileo, Simeon I.
- Kileleman, Miguel I.
- Kileleman, Prepedigna P.
- King, Jose San Nicolas
- Laniyo, Sabino R.
- Lieto, Ramon
- Lifoifoi, Jose R.
- Limes, Estanislao I.
- Lisua, Daniel M.
- Lisua, Raphael
- Lizama, Antonio T.
- Lizama, Francisco C.
- Lizama, Jesus B.
- Lizama, Vicente C.
- Lizama, Vicente Q.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MARCH 13, 2000

Young backs fight vs federal takeover

The Commonwealth's fight against federal takeover drew fresh support from Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) who has renewed calls against several legislative proposals that would strip the CNMI control over immigration and minimum wage. Mr. Young, chair of the powerful House Resources Committee, has told colleagues in Congress to weigh an independent study by the U.S. General Accounting Office which detailed the potential economic disaster that may be caused by changes in the ability of the CNMI to tap foreign labor.

Only 10 investment certificates approved since 1997

Economic downturn in Asia and restrictive local investment policy requiring investors to put up a \$100,000 security deposit continue to chase foreign businessmen away from the Northern Marianas. Only 10 new foreign investments have been given the foreign investment certificates and visas to do business on Saipan since February 1997, according to the Economic Development Division of the commerce department.

Hotel occupancy rate drops to eight-year low

Overall hotel occupancy rate for the month of February 2000 was registered at 69.32 percent, the lowest ever recorded in the past eight years in the Northern Marianas. This is just a slight drop from the previous record of 69.48 percent in February 1999.

MARCH 13, 2001

Disaster emergency on Rota

Rota will be placed under local disaster emergency after the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation went on with its scheduled power disconnection of government offices yesterday due to unsettled bills. Citing imminent threat to public health, safety and welfare, Rota Mayor Benjamin Manglona urged CUC officials to restore the electricity supply of local government agencies essential to community services.

Gov't to pay \$800K each month to keep lights on

The Department of Finance and the Commonwealth Utilities Commission yesterday hammered out a deal guaranteeing the continued supply of electricity to government offices on Saipan. However, the agreement proved too late for government offices in Rota and Tinian as the utility company made true its threat to cut electric service to public establishments in the two municipalities.

Fiberglass scraps from aircon make Kagman students sick

The Kagman community has raised fears its children are facing grave health risks due to fiberglass particles they may have been inhaling inside their fully-airconditioned classrooms for the past six months at Saipan's newest public campus. Though no medical evidence has been so far determined to directly link the spate of illnesses Kagman Elementary School students and faculty have reportedly suffered due to the suspected health hazard, community leaders led by Rep. Tom Pangelinan convened yesterday to formulate an action plan to address the pressing issue.

MARCH 13, 2002

Customs collection slides to \$3.9M

In a manner that has become depressingly predictable of late, the Customs collection last month fell by 4.15 percent, from \$4.14 million in January to \$3.97 million in February. Based on figures provided by the CNMI Division of Customs, the biggest drop in revenue was in airport collections, which fell by a whopping 51 percent, from \$234,500 in January to just \$114,490 in February.

Asylum meeting draws hundreds of applicants

More than a hundred aliens trooped to the American Memorial Park early last night amid occasional rain to listen to asylum opportunities from human-rights lawyer Bruce Lee Jorgensen-a meeting that was attended by personalities that included local and federal government officials. Among those who attended the meeting were Office of Insular Affairs representative Jeff Schorr, Assistant Attorney General Andrew Clayton and former Senate legal counsel Steve Woodruff.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR

Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Guilty pleasures

Only time, or leaks from a federal investigation, will tell what erotic refinements New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer was seeking when he allegedly paid "Kristen," an employee of the Emperors Club VIP escort service, more than \$2,000 on Valentine's eve. But governors have been getting caught with prostitutes for about as long as there have been governors, and Spitzer's alleged lapses are notable mainly as evidence of a nationwide recrudescence of personal vices that resist all efforts at eradication.

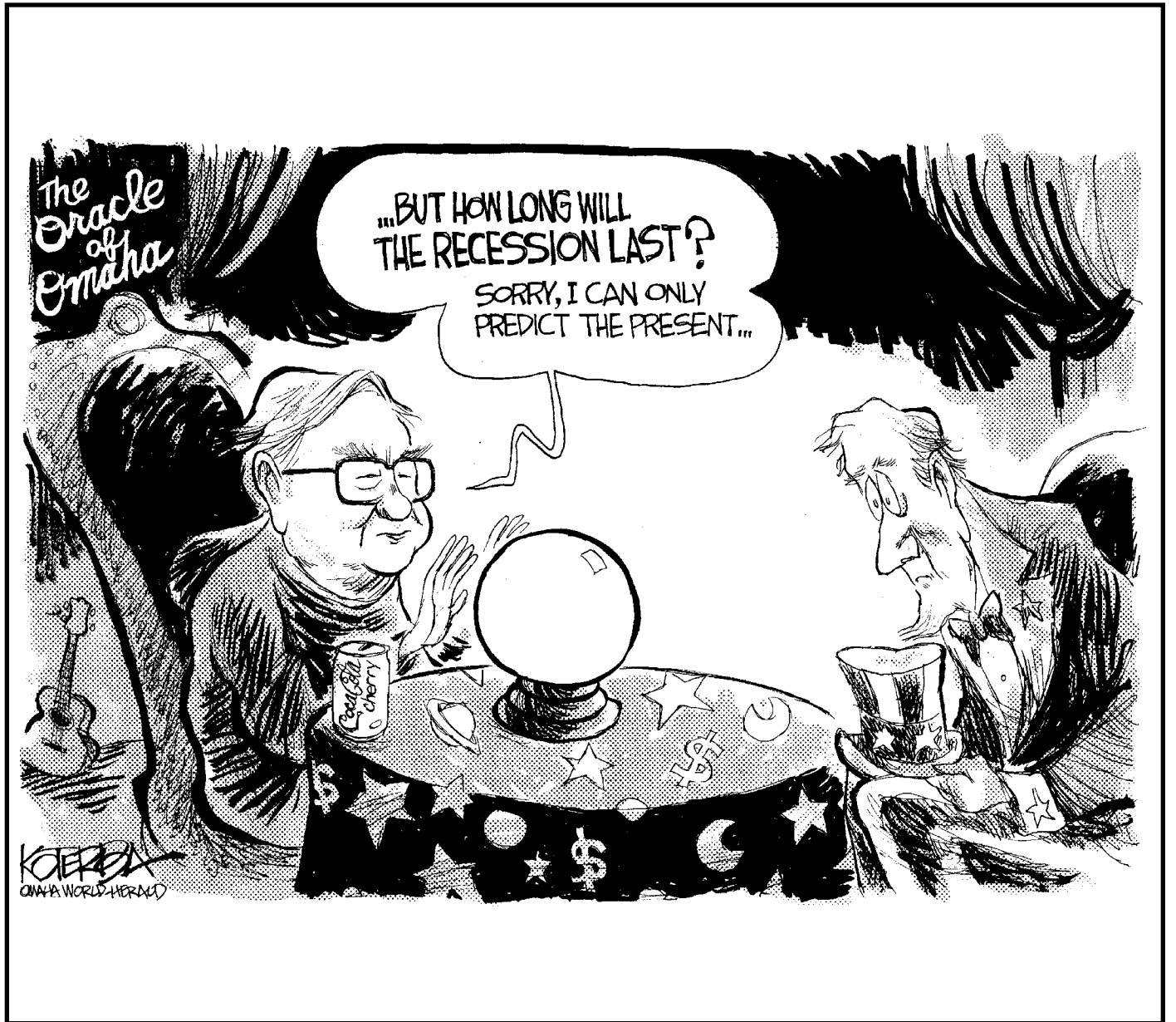
In Minnesota, a ban on smoking in bars and restaurants has given rise to a creative act of bad-for-you defiance. Citing a clause that allows theater actors to smoke as part of their performances, bars across the state have taken to holding "Before the Ban" theater nights, in which patrons are encouraged to come in costume, project their conversations at stage volume and pretend to be playing themselves. Health officials have panned the performances, threatening to impose hefty fines and revoke the liquor licenses of participating bars.

In Alabama, microbrewers and fancy-beer fans are flouting state bans on home brewing and beer with more than 6 percent alcohol content. They're also joining booze advocates in other states seeking to overturn laws against sangria, vodka and supermarket sales of strong wine.

This may not be what Henry David Thoreau had in mind when he talked about civil disobedience. But the drinking and smoking refuseniks are part of a long tradition of Americans who have fought the law not out of nobility or high principle but out of their belief in the freedom of consenting adults to participate in shameful, unpopular or harmful activities. And unlike Spitzer, who vigorously and self-righteously prosecuted prostitutes along with Wall Street bankers during his days as New York's attorney general, they're willing to go public with their tastes.

We don't mean to imply support for prostitution, smoking or excessive drinking. There is, however, something encouraging in seeing even a self-destructive maverick spirit live on despite the best intentions of public scolds. Perhaps we should give the last word to "Kristen," who in the federal government's complaint dismisses concerns for her well-being: "I'm here for a purpose. I know what my purpose is. I am not a ... moron, you know what I mean."

© 2008, Los Angeles Times



Political courage

"Unless we embrace fundamental reforms, we will be caught in a financial storm that will humble this great country as no foreign enemy ever could." —Ron Paul (4 Mar 08, in Forbes.com)

Yes, Congressman Ron Paul is still vying for the Presidency of the United States of America; however, the mainstream media's blatant blackout coverage of the candidate has effectively diminished his public presence, but his message to the American public is unwavering.

At this point, he concedes that securing the nomination of the Republican Party is mathematically improbable; nevertheless, he is still campaigning, more on principle. His recent re-election as a Texas congressman will also ensure that there is at least one politician in Washington still interested in upholding the U.S. Constitution, and deeply concerned about the financial issues facing the country.

Stephen Studdert, a former White House advisor to three U.S. Presidents, has outlined 10 imminent dangers facing the country in his book *America in Danger*. Some of these dangers include the triple threat to economic dominance posed by China, India, and Russia; the bursting of the housing bubble; our insatiable thirst for oil, immigration, and America's failing infrastructure. He shares many of the concerns of Congressman Paul, particularly our unfunded entitlement programs and the ticking time bomb of American debt—personal and national. Studdert believes that if two or three possible dangers were to hit simultaneously, the ability of the U.S. to respond would be very limited.

At the government, corporate, and personal level, we have been spending money we don't have, by financing debt. Americans, as consumers, spend about \$20 for every \$19 earned. In case you're wondering why it's so difficult to make ends meet, go to <http://www.westegg.com/inflation/> and type in your current monthly salary, and the year 2000 as the initial year. The final year only goes to 2007. After you hit the submit button, you will see that inflation has taken a \$300 to \$600 bite out of your paycheck each month. Our situation on Saipan is exacerbated by the higher costs for shipping, fuel, and utilities.

To avoid a recession, the U.S. government hastily passed a stimulus package to refund \$160 billion to taxpayers; however, it is a refund of taxes never yet collected, so it is actually a \$160 billion debt placed on the backs of the American public. Interest rate cuts, bailout packages, and other "solutions" posed by the federal gov-

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.



ernment will only lead to greater currency devaluation and contribute to the rising cost of living.

How many of the candidates, besides Ron Paul, have a serious, long-term economic plan, or are sounding the alarm about the grave economic issues facing the country? Instead, we see politics-as-usual, as they ignore our \$9.4 trillion debt and give no attention to an estimated \$59 trillion in unfunded federal obligations and entitlement programs (which equates to over \$500,000 per household). One trillion is equal to one million times one million!

In one of Dr. Paul's speeches he quotes David Walker, former head of the U.S. Government Accountability Office: "We are mortgaging the future of our children and grandchildren at record rates, and that is not only an issue of fiscal irresponsibility, it's an issue of immorality."

Closer to home, the CNMI is inextricably tied to the U.S. economy. We are still struggling from the domino effect that started with the Asian economic downturn in 1997. It will take gritty, political courage to deal with the maelstrom facing us now and in the future. True leaders will emerge to face the challenges, while political opportunists will continue to be the cause, not the cure, to our problems.

We'll end with the rest of Paul's quote at the beginning of this article. Even though he continues to be marginalized by the mainstream media, who foist their PC candidates in front of us each day, Ron Paul's message will someday ring out loud and clear when his clarion call has materialized. May God bless you Congressman Paul for making a valiant effort to wake up a sleeping public on the real issues that face the United States...and the CNMI.

"However, we can find safe harbor in our ideals. Reclaiming our historic legacy of principled commitment to liberty will, once again, unleash the innovative spirit that propelled our nation to heights of prosperity never before achieved in human history."

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Island Snapshots



ROTARY GUEST

Merrill Lynch Honolulu first vice president Kenan J. Knieriem, CFA, delivers his presentation on Economic and Market Update during the Rotary Club of Saipan's weekly Tuesday meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

LABOR OUTREACH

Labor director Barry Hirschbein gestures as he talks to small business employers during an Educational Outreach Forum on Public Law 15-108 and its Implementing Regulations at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Tuesday morning. Also in photo are legal counsel to the administration Deanne Siemer and Deputy Secretary of Labor Cinta Kaipat, author of P.L. 15-108.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



MIDDLE ROAD ACCIDENT

Police officers investigate an SUV with plate number ABW 999, which turned turtle in front of Sugar King Park on Middle Road after a four-car collision involving a gold Toyota Echo, white Ford F150 pickup truck, and a white Toyota Sienna CE van Monday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



OPEN HOUSE

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Pam Sablan, Assistive Technology Program coordinator, and Frances Torres, Family Hope Center system navigator, arrange different types of assistive technology equipment and mobility products for display during the Assistive Technology Center and Family Hope Center Open House at the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities office on Capital Hill yesterday. The activity is part of the CNMI Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month celebration.



GROTTO CLEANUP

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The hardworking Department of Lands and Natural Resources Forestry division staff—Jason Ada, James Babauta, Ben Cepeda, Mike Suarez and field supervisor John Limes—take a short break after cleaning the surroundings of the new monument in Grotto Monday afternoon.



MBA'S PRIDE

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Marianas Baptist Academy team gather for a photo in the final round of the 10th Annual National High School Mock Trial at the CNMI Superior Court in Susupe Saturday afternoon. The MBA team was composed of Anita Hofschneider, who was named best prosecution attorney, Xian Tian Falig, Laura Lee, So Young Lee, Dencio Manglona, Frank Yeung, and Debora Yoon.



WINNING MENTORS

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Mount Carmel School's teacher-coach Galvin Deleon Guerrero holds the plaque with attorney-coach Joe Taijeron and attorney-coach Ed Buckingham after winning the 10th Annual National High School Mock Trial Championship at the CNMI Superior Court in Susupe Saturday afternoon. The CNMI Bar Association hosted the prestigious event.



ANTI GRAFFITI CAMPAIGN

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hardworking members of the Northern Marianas College Beta Lambda Psi Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa and Saipan Southern High School National Honor Society spend their Saturday morning cleaning and painting over graffiti on a waiting shed in Koblerville as part of their anti-graffiti campaign. Sherwin Williams generously donated the paints and brushes for the activity.



STARTING 'EM YOUNG

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Children of members of local advocacy group Taotao Tano CNMI Association, Inc., lend a hand during the group's cleanup in front of the Joeten Kiyu Public Library Saturday.

Business

Gas prices rise to new national record

NEW YORK (AP) -- The cost of filling up the family car climbed to a record high Tuesday, adding to the challenges consumers already face with falling home values and rising food prices.

Gas prices at the pump rose

overnight to a record national average of \$3.2272 a gallon, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. That's a tad higher than the previous record of \$3.2265, set last May.

Soaring gas prices worsen

the financial plight of consumers already suffering through a downturn in the housing market that has sharply reduced home prices in many markets and limited Americans' ability to tap home equity for spending. Food prices are also on the rise, partly

due to rising fuel costs.

"I used to think three bucks a gallon was all I'd pay, but I keep filling up," said Joe Gowans while gassing his Acura SUV in San Francisco one recent afternoon. "You have to use it."

A year ago, rising demand and a string of refinery outages had raised concerns about supplies. Now, the record price of crude oil is the culprit, propelling gas higher although supplies are at 15-year highs.

On Tuesday, light sweet crude for April delivery surged to a new trading record of \$109.72 on the New York Mercantile Exchange before retreating after the Energy Department and In-

ternational Energy Agency cut crude consumption forecasts for this year. Futures settled 85 cents higher at \$108.75 a barrel, a new record.

Where gas and oil go from here is anybody's guess. Many analysts expect prices to moderate, while others predict oil could keep rising to \$120 a barrel, or higher. And with demand for gas expected to rise as warm weather arrives, analysts say pump prices could spike as high as \$3.75 a gallon, regardless of what happens with oil prices. The Energy Department on Tuesday raised its forecast of how high prices will rise this spring by a dime to \$3.50 a gallon.

Continental is world's most admired airline—magazine



HOUSTON—Continental Airlines was again rated the top airline on Fortune magazine's annual airline industry list of World's Most Admired Companies. This is the fifth consecutive year that Continental has topped that list.

The airline also ranked No. 41 on Fortune's World's Most Admired Companies "Top 50" list, which ranks companies in a wide variety of industries. Continental was the only U.S. passenger carrier on the "Top 50" list.

"This award is a reflection of the consistent professionalism and hard work of my more than 45,000 co-workers, who prove again and again that they are the best in the industry," Chairman and CEO Larry Kellner

said. "We continue to focus on providing a world-class product and industry-leading service, and I am proud that my co-workers' superb efforts have been recognized by Fortune for the fifth consecutive year."

The rankings are determined in a survey of corporate and airline executives, boards of directors and industry analysts. Companies are evaluated according to the following criteria: quality of products/services, global competitiveness, people management, quality of management, social responsibility, innovation, use of corporate assets, financial soundness and long-term investment. Continental received an overall score of 9.14, followed by Singapore Airlines (6.51), Lufthansa Group (5.82), British Airways (5.68), Delta Air Lines (5.55)

and Japan Airlines (5.32).

Continental Airlines is the world's fifth largest airline. Continental, together with Continental Express and Continental Connection, has more than 2,900 daily departures throughout the Americas, Europe and Asia, serving 144 domestic and 139 international destinations. More than 550 additional points are served via SkyTeam alliance airlines. With more than 45,000 employees, Continental has hubs serving New York, Houston, Cleveland and Guam, and together with Continental Express, carries approximately 69 million passengers per year. Continental consistently earns awards and critical acclaim for both its operation and its corporate culture. For more company information, visit continental.com. (*Continental*)

Gold prices push consumers to sell

CHICAGO (AP)—A new kind of gold rush is unfolding at jewelry store and pawn shop counters - featuring not prospectors, but consumers.

White-collar workers, retirees and many others have been digging through jewelry boxes and safety deposit boxes to cash in as gold prices flirt with \$1,000 an ounce. Coins, old wedding rings, necklaces given by ex-boyfriends, hand-me-down gold pieces - everything is fair game when it brings this kind of profit.

Shop owners across the country are marveling about the phenomenon they say began in the latter part of 2007 and accelerated through the winter, reflecting torrid gold demand like none had ever seen. There are even gold parties, where people gather to sell their jewelry.

"Everybody's trying to sell," said Richard Rozhko, owner of a jewelry store on the northern edge of Chicago. "People are trying to cash out because they don't believe that gold's going to go higher than \$1,000 or \$1,200" an ounce.

Rachel Weingarten, a New Yorker with a self-described obsession with "shiny trinkets," didn't need to sell but couldn't resist the chance when she saw prices soar like

an overinflated tech stock.

"When I saw the prices going through the roof, I saw it as an amazing opportunity to rid myself of jewelry that no longer suits my taste or sta-

tus," said Weingarten, a marketing consultant. "It's also been a lot of fun to get cash for stuff that is broken or just really ugly or just takes up room in my drawers."



Gold coins and jewelry are seen at Howard Jewelry in Chicago on Monday, March 10, 2008, a selection some of the many items customers have sold to owner Richard Rozhko in recent months as the price of gold has flirted with \$1,000 an ounce.

Feds launch \$200B loan rescue

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Starting at spreading financial dangers, the Federal Reserve announced a rescue package Tuesday that would pour as much as \$200 billion into banks and investment houses and allow them to put up risky home-loan packages as collateral.

The Federal Reserve's maneuver, coordinated with central banks overseas, was its latest effort to stem the global credit crisis and severe housing woes that threaten to bury the United States in its first recession since 2001. Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues have been stretching for new and imaginative ways to confront the situation.

They are hoping to bring relief where it is sorely needed: in the market for mortgage securities. Home loan financing has become much harder to get as nervous lenders have hunkered down.

"It is a highly significant move. The Fed is innovating in a way that is going to push liquidity directly into the mortgage markets, where it is most needed," said David Jones, president of DJM Advisors.

Traders will be looking for still more action. Recent stock rallies have been followed by renewed selloffs by investors who believe the economy is still headed for recession, if it isn't there already.

Assuming Tuesday's action helps to stabilize turbulent financial markets, that could reduce the chances that the Fed will order a deep, three-quarters of a percentage point cut in its key interest rate next week to further encourage lending and other economic activity. An increasing number of economists now believe the Fed is more likely to cut rates by a half-point, though that could newly roil Wall Street.

Stocks boom on Fed's bank booster

NEW YORK (AP)—The Fed promised a \$200 billion booster shot for ailing markets - and Wall Street answered with its biggest bounce in more than five years.

The Dow Jones industrials shot up more than 416 points, the biggest single-day point gain since July 2002, after the Federal Reserve announced the move as part of a worldwide effort to help struggling banks and mortgage providers.

Hoping to ease the credit crisis, the Fed—acting with the European Central Bank, the Bank of Canada and the Swiss National Bank—agreed to loan investment banks money in exchange for debt, including slumping mortgage-backed securities.

The idea is to create a market for assets that investors have recently been too scared to buy. That freeze in demand had sent asset

values plunging and caused huge losses for some of the world's biggest banks.

After a series of hefty losses in stocks, the market hopes the central banks' decision Tuesday might be more effective than previous moves—like rate cuts, which had led to initial stock pops that later fizzled.

"It's not just a rate cut. I think it's a very creative way to do financing," said Anthony Conroy, managing director and head trader for BNY Converge Group. "It shows the Fed is willing to do things that are a little out-of-the-box to shore up credit issues. I really think they went to the heart of the issue."

Investors certainly seemed to like it: The Dow rose 416.66, or 3.6 percent, to 12,156.81. It was the biggest point jump in the Dow since a 447-point rise on July 29, 2002, and its widest one-day percentage gain since March 2003.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA 5,333.300 Up 122.200 (+2.34%)	HONG KONG 23,481.57 Up 486.22 (+2.11%)	JAKARTA 2,570.043 Up 46.509 (+1.84%)
TOKYO 12,894.23 Up 235.95 (+1.86%)	K. LUMPUR 1,206.54 Up 33.32 (+2.84%)	MANILA 2,953.39 Up 44.39 (+1.53%)
SINGAPORE 2,935.81 Up 74.96 (+2.62%)	SEOUL 1,671.89 Up 30.41 (+1.85%)	BANGKOK 830.94 Up 11.11 (+1.36%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
12,156.81
+416.66

NASDAQ
2,255.76
+86.42

S&P
1,320.65
+47.28

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0732
British Pound	0.4971
Canadian Dollar	0.9911
Chinese Renmbi	7.106
Euro	0.6509
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7886
Indian Rupee	40.309
Indonesian Rupiah	9149.5
Japanese Yen	102.985
Malaysian Ringgit	3.1835
New Zealand Dollar	1.2446
Philippine Peso	41.139
Singapore Dollar	1.3868
South Korean Won	966.3
Swiss Franc	1.0299
Taiwan Dollar	30.589
Thailand Baht	31.575

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Obama coasts to victory in Miss. primary



JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—Barack Obama coasted to victory in Mississippi's Democratic primary Tuesday, latest in a string of racially polarized presidential contests across the Deep South and a final tune-up before next month's high-stakes race with Hillary Rodham Clinton in Pennsylvania.

Obama was winning roughly 90 percent of the black vote but only about one-quarter of the white vote, extending a pattern that carried him to victory in earlier primaries in South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana.

His triumph seemed unlikely to shorten a Democratic marathon expected to last at least six more weeks—and possibly far longer—while Republicans and their nominee-in-waiting, Sen. John McCain, turn their attention to the fall campaign.

"Now we look forward to campaigning in Pennsylvania and around the country," Maggie Williams, Clinton's campaign manager, said in a written statement that congratulated Obama on his victory.

"I'm confident that once we get a nominee, the party is going to be unified," Obama said as he collected his victory.



AP
Democratic president hopeful, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., waves to supporters before speaking at Jackson State University in Jackson, Miss., Monday, March 10, 2008.

But in a race growing more contentious, he took a swipe at the way his rival's campaign has conducted itself.

"We've been very measured in terms of how we talk about Senator Clinton," he said. "I've been careful to say that I think

Senator Clinton is a capable person and that should she win the nomination, obviously, I would support her. I'm not sure we've been getting that same approach from the Clinton campaign," he said in on CNN.

Returns from 92 percent of Mississippi's precincts showed Obama gaining 59 percent, to 39 percent for Clinton.

Obama picked up at least 17 of Mississippi's 33 delegates to the Democratic National Convention, with five more to be awarded. He hoped for a win sizable enough to erase most if not all of Clinton's 11-delegate gain from last week, when she won three primaries.

The Illinois senator had 1,596 delegates to 1,484 for Clinton. It takes 2,025 to win the nomination.

Neither of the two rivals appears able to win enough delegates through primaries and caucuses to prevail in their historic race for the nomination, a development that has elevated the importance of nearly 800 elected officials and party leaders who will attend next summer's national convention as unelected superdelegates.

Obama leads Clinton among pledged delegates, 1,385-1,237 in The Associated Press count, while the former first lady has

an advantage among superdelegates, 247-211.

There was little suspense about the Mississippi outcome, and both Clinton and Obama spent part of their day campaigning in Pennsylvania, which has 158 delegates at stake in a primary on April 22.

The volatile issue of race has been a constant presence in the historic Democratic campaign, and it resurfaced during the day in the form of comments by Geraldine Ferraro, the 1984 Democratic vice presidential candidate and a Clinton supporter.

"If Obama was a white man, he would not be in this position. And if he was a woman (of any color) he would not be in this position. He happens to be very lucky to be who he is. And the country is caught up in the concept," she said in an interview with the Daily Breeze of Torrance, Calif., that was published last Friday.

Clinton expressed disagreement with Ferraro's comments, and said, "It's regrettable that any of our supporters—on both sides, because we both have this experience—say things that kind of veer off into the personal."

Obama called Ferraro's remarks "patently absurd."

Fallon resigns as Mideast military chief

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Navy admiral in charge of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan announced Tuesday that he is resigning over press reports portraying him as opposed to President Bush's Iran policy.

Adm. William J. Fallon, one of the most experienced officers in the U.S. military, said the reports were wrong but had become a distraction hampering his efforts in the Middle East. Fallon's area of responsibility includes Iran and stretches from Central Asia across the Middle East to the Horn of Africa.

"I don't believe there have ever been any differences about the objectives of our policy in the Central Command area of responsibility," Fallon said, and he regretted "the simple perception that there is." He was in Iraq when he made the statement.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates told a Pentagon news conference that he accepted Fallon's request to resign and retire from the Navy, agreeing that the Iran issue had become a distraction. But Gates said repeatedly that he believed talk of Fallon opposing Bush on Iran was mistaken.

Spitzer may have spent tens of thousands

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—With pressure mounting on Gov. Eliot Spitzer to resign over a call-girl scandal, investigators said Tuesday he was clearly a repeat customer who spent tens of thousands of dollars - perhaps as much as \$80,000 - with the high-priced prostitution service over an extended period of time.

Spitzer and his family, meanwhile, remained secluded in their Fifth Avenue apartment, while Republicans began talking impeachment, and few if any fellow Democrats came forward to defend him. A death watch of sorts began at the state Capitol, where whispers of "What have you heard?" echoed through nearly every hallway of the or-

nate, 109-year-old building.

On Monday, when the scandal broke, prosecutors said in court papers that Spitzer had been caught on a wiretap spending \$4,300 with the Emperors Club VIP call-girl service, with some of the money going toward a night with a prostitute named Kristen, and the rest to be used as credit toward future trysts. The papers also suggested that Spitzer had done this before.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a law enforcement official said Tuesday that Spitzer, in fact, had spent tens

of thousands of dollars with the Emperors Club. Another official said the amount could be as high as \$80,000. But it was not clear over what period of time that was spent.



Spitzer

Still another law enforcement official said investigators found that during the tryst with Kristen on the night before Valentine's Day, Spitzer used two rooms at the Mayflower

Hotel in Washington—one for himself, the other for the prostitute. Sometime around 10 p.m., Spitzer sneaked away from his security detail and made his way

to the room where she was waiting, the official said. The three officials spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the case.

In the court papers, an Emperors Club employee was quoted as telling Kristen that Client 9—Spitzer, according to investigators—"would ask you to do things that... you might not think were safe," and Kristen responded by saying: "I have a way of dealing with that. ... I'd be, like, listen, dude, you really want the sex?"

A law enforcement official said Tuesday the discussion had to do with Spitzer's preference not to wear a condom and the call-girl's insistence that he use one.

Spitzer tripped up on laws that he enforced

NEW YORK (AP)—Eliot Spitzer knew how to catch bad guys by following the money. As attorney general, he once broke up a call-girl ring and locked up 18 people on corruption, money-laundering and prostitution charges. He ruthlessly investigated the pay packages of Wall Street executives and was so familiar with shady financial maneuvers that he rose to become the top racketeering prosecutor in Manhattan.

But in the end, it appears that Spitzer may have been done in by the same behavior he built a career out of prosecuting.

In fact, it seems he was tripped up by some of the very financial accounting methods he used so successfully against multibillion-dollar Wall Street firms.

For one thing, the governor initially drew the attention of federal investigators because of cash payments to an account operated by a call-girl ring, according to a law enforcement official who spoke on condition of because of the sensitivity of the case.

Banks are required to file Suspicious Activity Reports to the government whenever they observe something they fear may be a crime.

In court papers, Client 9—i-

dentified by another law enforcement official as Spitzer—hurried to get more than \$4,000 in cash to pay a call girl at a Washington hotel.

That kind of activity, repeated over time, is just the kind of thing that would set off alarm bells with a bank's compliance officer, who is trained to be on the lookout for what is called structuring or "smurfing"—a pattern of transactions aimed at hiding the nature or purpose of certain money.

Spitzer of all people should have known that, said Miami-based lawyer Gregory Baldwin, credited with coining the term "smurfing" in the 1980s as a federal prosecutor.

"I think he's done enough cases where he's charged money laundering that he would know exactly what kind of information you get from the banks. It's such a perfect example of what goes around, comes around," he said.

By the time the scandal broke this week, Spitzer's financial transactions had been monitored, his phone calls had been caught on tape, and his actions had been scrutinized by federal prosecutors. It could have been straight out of the Spitzer prosecution playbook.

Probe to sample Saturn moon's geysers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Three years after gigantic geysers were spied on an icy Saturn moon, the international Cassini spacecraft is poised to plunge through the fringes of the mysterious plumes to learn how they formed.

Wednesday's flyby will take Cassini within 30 miles of the surface of Enceladus at closest approach. The unmanned probe will be about 120 miles above the moon as it sweeps through the edge of the geysers and measures their chemical makeup.

The carefully orchestrated event will take Cassini "deeper than we've been before," mission scientist Carolyn Porco of the Space Science Institute said in an e-mail.

Scientists long believed Enceladus, the shiniest object in the solar system, was

cold and still because it resides hundreds of millions of miles from the sun. But recent evidence shows the Arizona-size satellite is geologically active, with a significant atmosphere and a relatively warm south pole.

In 2005, Cassini surprised scientists when it snapped images of geyser-like eruptions of ice particles and water vapor spewing from the south pole. The dramatic images effectively put Enceladus (en-SELL'-uh-duhs) on the short list of places within the solar system most likely to have conditions suitable for extraterrestrial life.

Scientists generally agree the presence of water, organic compounds and a stable heat source are needed to support primitive life.



AP
This photo released by NASA on March 9, 2006, shows the surface of Saturn's moon Enceladus as seen from the Cassini spacecraft.

Asia

Thaksin pleads not guilty in court

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Ousted Thai Prime Minister

Thaksin Shinawatra pleaded not guilty Wednesday before the Supreme Court in one of two criminal corruption cases against him.

More than 200 policemen with bomb detectors and five sniffer dogs were deployed around the court where some 400 of Thaksin's supporters waited, many holding portraits of the former leader over



Thaksin

their heads.

"The defendant pleaded not guilty of the charges," chief judge Thongloh Chom-ngam told the court, which set the next hearing for April 29. It also excused Thaksin from having to appear at every hearing, as requested by his lawyer.

"We can prove our innocence," said Thaksin, who was ousted in a September 2006 military coup for alleged corruption

and abuse of power.

When he emerged after the hearing, some of his supporters burst into tears while others cheered him, shouting "Thaksin, fight, fight."

"Never mind, everything will be OK," Thaksin told one female supporter who cried as she hugged him.

Thaksin's return has stirred the Thai political scene because of suspicions that he will seek a return to power and try to settle the score against those who deposed him.

Blasts push Pakistan toward new policy

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan's crisis deepened after two suicide bombings killed 24 people and wounded more than 200 in this normally peaceful city Tuesday, and pressure grew for more dialogue with militants as a new government

prepares to take office.

It was the first major act of terrorism since former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and slain opposition leader Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party announced over the weekend that they would form a coalition

government aimed at reducing the powers of President Pervez Musharraf, a U.S. ally.

With such attacks now spreading from unruly tribal regions to the eastern cultural capital of Lahore, an increasing number of Pakistanis are questioning Musharraf's approach to countering al-Qaida and the Taliban. Musharraf's opponents say punitive military action has only fueled the violence.

Monks staged bold protest in Tibet

BEIJING (AP)—Buddhist monks staged two protests in the capital of Tibet this week in a bold, public challenge to China's rule, though a senior official said Tuesday that no one was arrested.

Champa Phuntsok, an ethnic Tibetan who heads the Tibetan regional government, said authorities briefly detained monks from Drepung monastery outside Lhasa who tried to march to the city on the anniversary of a failed Tibetan uprising against Beijing rule in 1959.

He said they were released shortly afterward after being questioned and "counseled."



Pakistani volunteers remove an injured man from the site of a bomb explosion at the office of the Federal Investigation Agency in Lahore, Pakistan on Tuesday, March 11, 2008.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Injured Timor leader thanks supporters

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—East Timorese President Jose Ramos-Horta has spoken publicly for the first time since an assassination attempt a month ago, to thank the medical staff who saved his life and other supporters. In a videotaped message broadcast Wednesday, Ramos-Horta says he is refraining from making any political comments at this stage but thanked those who prayed for him and cared for him after the Feb. 11 assassination bid.

Ramos-Horta was rushed to hospital in the northern Australian city of Darwin after rebel troops shot him outside his home in East Timor. He has undergone surgery five times and doctors say he is expected to

make a full recovery.

SKorea's Lee calls for bolstering army

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's president says he wants to strengthen the country's war capability to deter aggression from communist North Korea. President Lee Myung-bak told top military leaders Wednesday that South Korea should strengthen its military to win any war on the Korean peninsula and deter aggression from nuclear-armed North Korea. Lee says the South Korea-U.S. alliance is also important to deter war on the peninsula.

Ex-US President Bush arrives in SKorea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Former President George H.W.

Bush is meeting with government and business leaders as part of a three-day visit to South Korea, his office and a media report said Tuesday. Bush arrived on South Korea's southern resort island of Jeju Tuesday, where he is spending the night, said Jean Becker, chief of staff for the former president. Becker said Bush will travel to Seoul on Wednesday where he is scheduled meet new South Korean President Lee Myung-bak. She said Bush had other meetings planned as well, but did not provide details. He returns to the U.S. on Thursday. Yonhap news agency said Bush traveled to South Korea from Shanghai on a private plane, had lunch with Hanjin Group Chairman Cho Yang-ho and planned to attend a dinner reception with local business leaders.

World

Violence across Iraq kills at least 42

BAGHDAD (AP)—Violence killed at least 42 people Tuesday, including 16 bus passengers caught in a roadside bombing in southern Iraq, after the deadliest day for U.S. troops in precisely six months.

The U.S. military announced that three American soldiers were killed in a roadside bombing north of Baghdad on Monday, bringing to eight the number of troops who died that day. The last time so many U.S. military personnel were killed in Iraq was Sept. 10, when 10 died.

Bloodshed has increased recently, despite what the military said has been a 60 percent drop in attacks across Iraq since June. Last Thursday,

Attacks continue

Violence in Iraq on Tuesday included an attack on a bus traveling from Najaf to Basra, another bus attack in eastern Baghdad and a shooting in Mosul.



SOURCE: ESRI

two massive bombs killed 68 people in Baghdad's Karradah neighborhood. On March 3, two car bombings killed 24 people in the capital.

According to an Associated

Press count, at the height of unrest from November 2006 to August 2007, on average approximately 65 Iraqis died each day as a result of violence. As conditions improved, the daily death toll steadily declined. It reached its lowest point in more than two years on January 2008, when on average 20 Iraqis died each day.

Those numbers have since jumped. In February, approximately 26 Iraqis died each day as a result of violence, and so far in March, that number is up to 39 daily. These figures reflect the months in which people were found, and not necessarily—in the case of mass graves—the months in which they were killed.



HOUSE OF TORTURE

In this image released by the U.S. Air Force, US Air Force missiles drop on a brick house that served as an al-Qaida prison and training facility in a farming area of Zambraniyah, 30 kilometers (20 miles) south of Baghdad, Iraq, Monday, March 10, 2008. Military said it found inside the house handcuffs attached to the floor and another connected to a barred window, hooks used to hang people attached to a wall and interrogation books written in Arabic.

Orphan wants adoptive parents jailed

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

(AP)—A 30-year-old woman on Tuesday urged a federal court to convict and sentence her adoptive parents to 25 years in prison, the maximum allowed on charges they hid her true identity as a child of dissidents who disappeared under Argentina's dictatorship.

Maria Eugenia Sampallo Barragan accused Osvaldo Rivas and Maria Cristina Gomez Pinto of falsifying

adoption documents and concealing her identity at the trial that opened in February.

Thousands of leftists and dissidents vanished after being abducted by security forces during Argentina's 1976-1983 military regime, and human rights groups say more than 200 of their children were taken and given to military or politically connected families to raise.

Sampallo is the first child

born of political prisoners who went missing in the "Dirty War" to press such charges at trial against her adoptive parents—and against a former army captain, Enrique Berthier, who is a defendant in the same proceeding.

"The charges against them are very serious," said her lawyer, Tomas Ojea Quintana, speaking outside court Tuesday. "All deserve the maximum allowed by law—25 years."

Mixed reaction to idea of British pledge

LONDON (AP)—The idea sounds simple: Build British pride with a new pledge of allegiance, a new national holiday and citizenship ceremonies for children and immigrants.

But the proposal Tuesday from a government panel calling for the introduction of American-style patriotic rituals raises thorny questions in the sometimes frac-

tious United Kingdom.

Are people in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland who seek more independence eager to pledge allegiance to a united country? Will republicans who want to end Britain's monarchy offer undying devotion to queen and country?

And does Britain really need to embrace the American way? This is a country where

Americans' flag-waving tendencies are usually lightly ridiculed, not emulated.

A government-commissioned committee said an oath of allegiance and citizenship ceremony like those already instituted for new citizens should also be required for young Britons as a way to boost pride in country and mark the transition to adulthood.

Environment

Nominees sought for Young Conservationist Award

The International Ranger Federation and IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas are calling for nominations for the prestigious Young Conservationist Award.

The award aims to recognize and raise awareness of the outstanding contributions made to the management of protected areas, and leadership shown, by young conservationists. It also seeks to encourage young professionals and help them develop networks by inviting winners to join WCPA.

Nominations/applications are invited for/from: young people working in conservation and actively managing protected areas. This includes all people working in protected areas, such as (but not limited to) rangers, interpreters, people working with local communities, policy makers, scientists, and, includes people working for government

agencies, the private sector, non-government organizations, local communities, etc.

Nominations/applications must be submitted for/by: young field practitioners (under the age of 35)

for any outstanding contribution (single incident or sustained/ongoing commitment) towards protected area management (from a local to a global scale)

The young professional's work must show:

Extreme dedication to protected areas

Capacity to deal with adversity

Working over and above the normal call of duty.

The Young Conservationist Award Review Panel will judge the degree to which the candidate

demonstrates:

Passion, dedication and commitment

Degree of innovation (thinking outside of the box)

Self sacrifice (time, costs, physical, bravery, etc)

Scale/extent/magnitude/impact of contribution (area and duration).

ON THE NET

International Ranger Federation:
www.int-ranger.net

World Commission on Protected Areas:
www.iucn.org/wcpa

Submissions:

An updated CV (maximum two pages)

letters from referees (maximum of three)

a short submission (maximum of 450 words) on the nominee's contribution, with special reference on how this contribution benefited/s and improved/s

protected area management.

Benefits for the awardee:

IRF/WCPA Young Conservationist Award Certificate

Membership in WCPA, the world's premier network of protected area experts

Publicity on WCPA and IRF websites

Applications should be sent preferably via e-mail to:

Djinn Pourkiani

Programme on Protected Areas

The World Conservation Union (IUCN)

Rue Mauverney 28

Gland, CH-1196, Switzerland

Phone: + 41 (22) 999-0161

Fax: + 41 (22) 999 0025

E-mail: djinn.pourkiani@iucn.org

Deadline for submissions: April 28, 2008

April 11 is annual 'Take the Right Route' Day

Take the "Right Route" on April 11 by walking, running, biking, or carpooling to work or school in order to reduce your carbon footprint.

Your carbon footprint is the direct effect that your actions and lifestyle have on the environment in terms of CO2 emissions. Probably the biggest contributors to your personal "footprint" are your travel needs, and

your electricity demands. These actions contribute to accelerating global warming and climate change.

Everyone has a responsibility to the world we live in now and the world we will leave to future generations. Take a first step to reduce your carbon footprint and "Take the Right Route" April 11th by walking, running, biking, or carpooling to work or school. You

will save one pound of CO2 for every mile you don't drive, save money, and maybe even your waistline.

Individuals, schools, and organizations that participate will receive a FREE pair of "Walk it, Don't Drive it" zories.

Interested? Please contact:

Saipan - Kathy Yuknavage, CRM Natural Resources Planner and MINA Board at 664-8311 or kathy.yuknavage@crm.gov.mp

age@crm.gov.mp;

Rota - Bill Pendergrass, CRM Coastal Coordinator at 532-0466 or william.pendergrass@crm.gov.mp;

Lihla Noori, Coral Management Specialist DEQ/CRMO/DFW at 532-3102 or lihla.noori@gmail.com;

Tinian - Edwin Hofschneider, CRM Coastal Coordinator at 433-0494 or Edwin.hofschneider@crm.gov.mp

New strategy to help the nation's ports go green

WASHINGTON, D.C.—EPA has unveiled a new plan of action for working with public port authorities and other interested groups to reduce the environmental impacts of moving goods through ports. The "Vision, Mission, and Strategy for Sustainable Ports" recognizes the steady growth in global maritime commerce and the critical role American ports and related transportation and supply chain partners play in managing the environmental impacts of moving goods across the country.

Ports are vital to the United States economy. Ocean-going ships move more than 99 percent of U.S. overseas trade (by weight). The top 10 U.S. ports moved a combined total of 23 million cargo containers in 2006. The environmental challenges for ports and their transportation network include reducing air emissions, improving water quality, and protecting the health of communities near port facilities.

EPA's Strategy focuses on six themes: Clean Air and Affordable Energy, Clean and Safe Water, Healthy Communities and Eco-systems, Global Environment, Ports Communications, and Enforcement. There are more than 70 possible actions, including working with port authorities, their business partners and other sectors of the transportation industry to quantify and reduce air emissions from all sources along the shipping supply chain; setting up state innovative financing funds to help small owner-operators of diesel equipment finance the upgrading or replacement of older, dirtier engines; and collaborating with the international port community on innovative technologies and development of international standards.

EPA's strategy complements the recent resolution and guiding principles on port sustainability issued by the American Association of Port Authorities. EPA programs will work with AAPA, individual port authorities, private port operators, transportation supply and logistics companies, government agencies, states, communities, and other interested groups to promote and implement sustainable practices at ports and their related operations. EPA regions will work collaboratively with individual ports to select (from among the full menu of possible actions in the EPA Strategy) a specific set of activities to work on together. These shared action plans will address the unique environmental impacts and opportunities for ports in different parts of the country. (EPA)

Carbon output must near zero for real change—studies

By JULIET EILPERIN
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WASHINGTON—The task of cutting greenhouse gas emissions enough to avert a dangerous rise in global temperatures may be far more difficult than previous research suggested, say scientists who have just published studies indicating that it would require the world to cease emitting carbon altogether within a matter of decades.

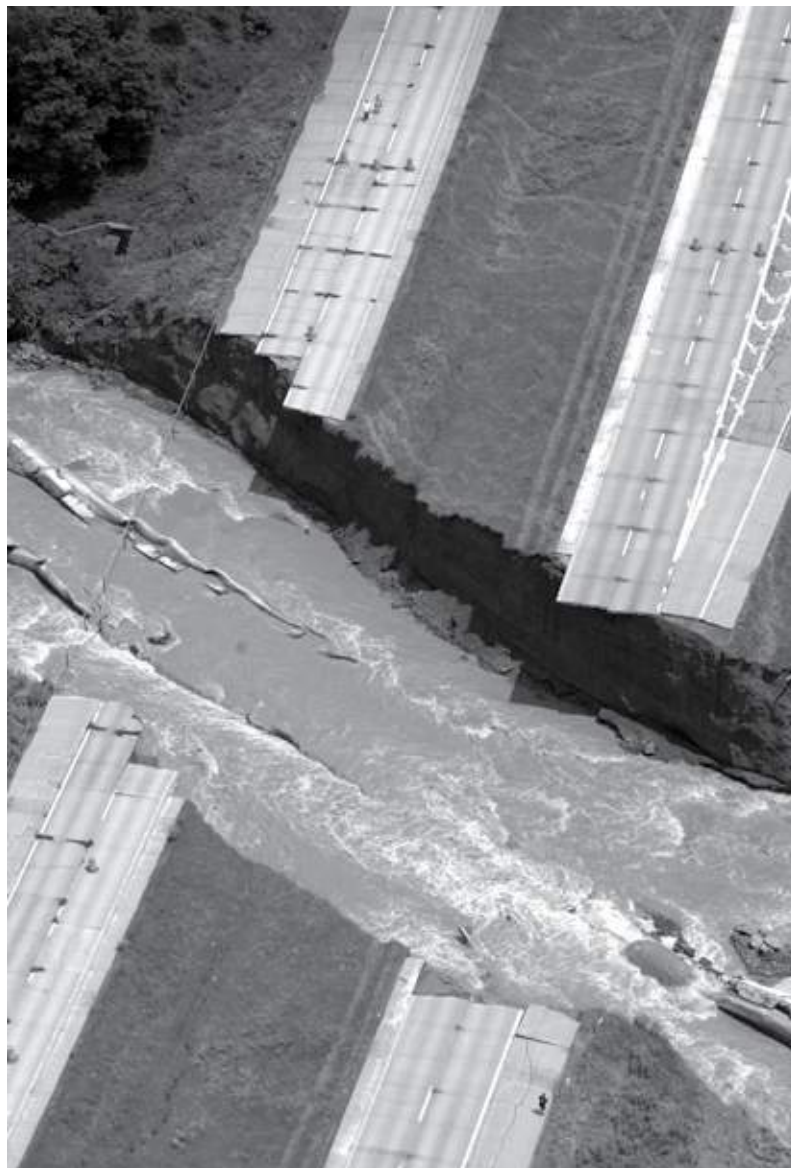
Their findings, published in separate journals over the past few weeks, suggest that both industrialized and developing nations must wean themselves off fossil fuels by as early as mid-century in order to prevent warming that could change precipitation patterns and dry up sources of water worldwide.

Using advanced computer models to factor in deep-sea warming and other aspects of the carbon cycle that naturally creates and removes carbon dioxide (CO2), the scientists, from countries including the United States, Canada and Germany, are delivering a simple message: The world must bring carbon emissions down to near zero to keep temperatures from rising further.

"The question is, what if we don't want the earth to warm anymore?" asked Carnegie Institution senior scientist Ken Caldeira, co-author of a paper published last week in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*. "The answer implies a much more radical change to our energy system than people are thinking about."

Although many nations have been pledging steps to curb emissions for nearly a decade, the world's output of carbon from human activities totals about 10 billion tons a year and has been steadily rising.

For now, at least, a goal of zero emissions appears well beyond the reach of politicians here and abroad.



In this file photo made June 28, 2006, emergency personnel, top left, stand on Interstate 88 where flooding from Carrs Creek cut through a section of the highway in Sidney, N.Y. Flooded roads and subways, deformed railroad tracks and weakened bridges may be the wave of the future with continuing global warming, the National Research Council said in a report released Tuesday.

U.S. leaders are just beginning to grapple with setting any mandatory limit on greenhouse gases. The Senate is poised to vote in June on legislation

that would reduce U.S. emissions by 70 percent by 2050; the two Democratic senators running for president, Hillary Rodham Clinton (N.Y.) and

Barack Obama (Ill.), back an 80 percent cut. Republican presidential nominee John McCain supports a 60 percent reduction by mid-century.

Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., who is shepherding climate legislation through the Senate as chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, said the new findings "make it clear we must act now to address global warming."

"It won't be easy, given the makeup of the Senate, but the science is compelling," she said. "It is hard for me to see how my colleagues can duck this issue and live with themselves."

James L. Connaughton, who chairs the White House Council on Environmental Quality, offered a more guarded reaction, saying the idea that "ultimately you need to get to net zero emissions" is "something we've heard before." When it comes to tackling such a daunting environmental and technological problem, he added, "We've done this kind of thing before. We will do it again. It will just take a sufficient amount of time."

Until now, scientists and policy-makers have generally described the problem in terms of halting the buildup of carbon in the atmosphere. The United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change framed the question that way two decades ago, and many experts talk of limiting CO2 concentrations to 450 parts per million.

But Caldeira and Oregon State University professor Andreas Schmittner now argue that it makes more sense to focus on a temperature threshold as a better marker of when the planet will experience severe climate disruptions. The Earth has already warmed by 0.76 degrees Celsius (nearly 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels. Most scientists warn that a temperature rise of 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) could have serious consequences.

Life & Style

Marlee Matlin ready for 'Dancing' debut

By SANDY COHEN
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE, Calif. (AP)—Marlee Matlin had never danced before - well, other than at weddings and bar mitzvahs - but for the past two weeks, she's been cha-cha-ing and quick-stepping for seven hours a day in preparation for her "Dancing With the Stars" debut.

Despite the unforgiving schedule and complaints of constant soreness from past contestants, Matlin, 42, says she's remained pain-free.

"Everyone asks if I'm sore," she said after a recent rehearsal at a nondescript dance studio northeast of Los Angeles. "Am I supposed to be sore?"

Perhaps not. She is, however, supposed to step, twirl, dip, smile, clap, spin, plant and jump - all imaginable types of body and facial movements, really - in time with the music. Never mind that the Academy Award-winning actress can't hear a single note, beat, or tempo change.

While none of this year's crop of "Dancing" hopefuls have ever danced professionally, Matlin has the additional challenge of being deaf. And that's not a



In this undated image released by ABC, Marlee Matlin rehearses with her dance partner Fabian Sanchez in La Canada Flintridge, Calif., in preparation for their competition on ABC's "Dancing With The Stars," which debuts on Monday, March 17, 2008.

problem, she said through her longtime interpreter, Jack Jason. Matlin relies on her professional partner, show newcomer Fabian Sanchez, to lead the way.

"He's my music," she said.

Sanchez has modified some of the dances slightly so he and Matlin maintain more physical or visual contact than they otherwise might. But even when she steps out solo, "she's got a natural rhythm," he said. "She's on time every single time."

The dance instructor from Birmingham, Ala. had never worked with a deaf student before, but he finds Matlin easier to teach than many who can hear.

"I have somebody who has never danced, who has never heard music, so I can mold her however I want," he said. "She's more sensitive to my lead because she's not trying to follow the rhythm on her own."

Matlin didn't join the show

to prove that deaf people can dance, she said, adding that she has seen deaf dancers perform on stages across the country. She did it for the challenge, the exposure, and ultimately, for her kids.

The mother of four was inspired by her 12-year-old daughter, Sara, a hip-hop dancer and devoted fan of the show.

"I just want to be the cool mom," Matlin said.

She's found the right venue for that.

As if an "American Idol"-esque 25 million viewers for last year's finale wasn't lending enough cultural weight to the live dancing competition, now it has something resembling a serious actress in its cast: Matlin, an Emmy-nominated TV veteran who won a best actress Oscar in 1986 for "Children of a Lesser God," is a clear cut above the usual "Dancing" actors.

For that reason alone she stands out from this year's crop, which includes radio host Adam Carolla, magician Penn Jillette, pro football player Jason Taylor, tennis champ Monica Seles, Olympic skater Kristi Yamaguchi, R&B singer Mario and actors Steve Guttenberg, Shannon Elizabeth, Christian de la Fuente, Priscilla Presley and Marissa Jaret Winokur.

As the ABC hit begins its sixth season Monday, she gives little thought to her impairment: "We're all challenged in some way. ... The only thing I can't do is hear."

But executive producer Conrad Green said cast diversity contributes to the show's success. His team looks for contestants of various ages, sizes, abilities and professional pursuits. Participants have been boxers, basketball players, businessmen, models and yes, actors.



In this photo released by New Line Cinema, actors from left, Brendan Fraser, Josh Hutcherson and Anita Briem are shown in a scene from "Journey to the Center of the Earth 3-D."

Movie exec sees 'new era' in 3-D films

LAS VEGAS (AP)—DreamWorks Animation SKG Inc. chief executive Jeffrey Katzenberg promised a "new era" in moviegoing Tuesday, as Hollywood studios prepared a huge slate of 3-D movies for theaters that are increasingly going digital.

"It is nothing less than the greatest innovation that has happened for all of us in the movie business since the advent of color 70 years ago," Katzenberg said in an address at ShoWest, a conference in Las Vegas where studios unveil clips and other details about upcoming movie lineups.

"Now it's our chance to deliver something that is far superior than anything that can be done in the home," he said.

Katzenberg then showed off a 3-D clip of his studio's March 2009 release "Monsters

vs. Aliens," in which the U.S. military unleashes a barrage on an alien space ship as the president fires a few rounds from a handgun, shouting "I'm a brave president!"

The presentation came after the announcement of a deal calling for the conversion of 10,000 more theater screens for the digital technology needed to accommodate 3-D.

Access Integrated Technologies Inc. said it had reached agreements with four studios - Disney, News Corp.'s 20th Century Fox, Viacom Inc.'s Paramount, and Universal Pictures, which is owned by General Electric Co.'s NBC Universal - to finance and equip the screens in the U.S. and Canada during the next three years.

The conversion will cost as much as \$700 million, said Bud Mayo, chief executive of

Access Integrated Technologies, which completed a first tranche of 3,700 digital conversions in October.

Hollywood is anxious to convert as many theaters as possible to the digital format, which provides sharper images while eliminating the need for expensive celluloid film.

The digital technology can also be used to show 3-D movies with the addition of software and hardware costing about \$25,000 per year for each screen.

"Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert," a 3-D movie, pulled in \$31.3 million in its opening weekend last month, an impressive feat because it played on only 683 screens. Many wide-release, 2-D films open on more than 3,000 screens and make half as much money.

January 2, 1946 | March 9, 2008

Sr. Myriam Therese Phan, rgs

has "fallen asleep on the heart of Jesus, the Good Shepherd and has awakened in the glory of God"

St. Mary Euphrasia.

A comet that shot across the sky at the time of search for her at the water's edge seemed a sign that Sr. Myriam arrived safely "home" in the Shepherd's Arms.

Her thoughtfulness, generosity, and gentle mature are loving memories we will miss.

Masses are being offered nightly at 7:00 p.m. followed by the rosary at Mt. Carmel Cathedral. A memorial Mass for our beloved Sr. Myriam will be held on Friday, March 14, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

Sr. Myriam Therese will leave Saipan during Holy Week where she will be laid to rest at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Your words of comfort and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Sisters of the Good Shepherd

*Province of Mid North America
Sr. Mary Stella Mangona, rgs
Sr. Mary Carol McClenon, rgs*

Britney will guest star on CBS show 'Mother'

NEW YORK (AP)—Britney Spears' upcoming appearance on the CBS show "How I Met Your Mother" could be—to borrow scene-stealer Barney's favorite word—legendary.

Spears will guest star in a March 24 episode of the cult series, CBS spokeswoman Kelli Raftery told The Associated Press on Tuesday. The pop star will portray a receptionist in a dermatologist's office named Abby who becomes "smitten" with Ted (Josh Radnor), Raftery said.

Craig Thomas, the show's creator, told Usmagazine.com that Spears attended a table reading with the cast on Monday, and that her scenes will probably be filmed later this week. He said representatives for Spears approached the CBS about "Mother" because "she was looking for a small part on a funny show."

Spears has previous TV sitcom experience playing a character on a 2006 episode of "Will and Grace." She was also the host and musical guest on "Saturday Night Live" in 2000.

"How I Met Your Mother," returning Monday with all-new episodes following the writers strike, co-stars Radnor, Jason Segal, Alyson Hannigan, Cobie Smulders and Neil Patrick Harris as twentysomethings living in New York City. Harris portrays serial bachelor Barney Stinson, who frequently uses the word "legendary" to describe his various exploits.

Spears has been under the conservatorship of her father, James, following bizarre behavior and two hospitalizations. She is also locked in a custody battle with ex-husband Kevin Federline over the former couple's sons, Jayden James, 1, and Sean Preston, 2.

'Gilligan's' Mary Ann caught with dope

DRIGGS, Idaho (AP)—Dawn Wells, who played Mary Ann on "Gilligan's Island," is serving six months' unsupervised probation after allegedly being caught with marijuana in her car.

She was sentenced Feb. 29 to five days in jail, fined \$410.50 and placed on probation after pleading guilty to one count of reckless driving.

Under a plea agreement, three misdemeanor counts—driving under the influence, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance—were dropped.

On Oct. 18, Teton County sheriff's Deputy Joseph Gutierrez arrested Wells as she was driving home from a surprise birthday party that was held for her. According to the sheriff's office report, Gutierrez pulled Wells over after noticing her swerve and repeatedly speed up and slow down. When Gutierrez asked about a marijuana smell, Wells said she'd just

given a ride to three hitchhikers and had dropped them off when they began smoking something. Gutierrez found half-smoked joints and two small cases used to store marijuana.

The 69-year-old Wells, founder of the Idaho Film and Television Institute and organizer of the region's annual family movie festival called the Spud Fest, then failed a sobriety test.

Wells' lawyer, Ron Swafford, said that a friend of Wells' testified that he'd left a small amount of marijuana in the vehicle after using it that day, and that Wells was unaware of it. Swafford also said several witnesses were prepared to testify that Wells had very little to drink at the party and was not intoxicated when she left. He said she was swerving on the road because she was trying to find the heater controls in her new car.



This undated photo, supplied by the Teton County Sheriff's Department, shows Dawn Wells, the actress who played "Mary Ann" on "Gilligan's Island," who was sentenced Feb. 29, 2008, to five days in jail, fined \$410.50 and placed on probation in Idaho after pleading guilty to one count of reckless driving.



Kid Rock signs an album cover for Alisha Mullen, of Point Pleasant, W. Va., at the Waffle House restaurant in Duluth, Georgia on Tuesday, March 11, 2008.

Kid Rock causes scene at a Waffle House

DULUTH, Ga. (AP)—Kid Rock caused another scene at a Waffle House—this time, for charity. The entertainer came to sign autographs for hundreds of fans during a fundraiser at the suburban Atlanta eatery. The event came just a week after Kid Rock, whose real name is Robert James Ritchie, pleaded not guilty to a charge of battery from a fight last fall at another Waffle House.

Waffle House spokeswoman Kelly Thrasher said the Atlanta-based company wanted to "take a negative situation and turn it into a positive situation."

Proceeds were to go to Nicholas House, a homeless shelter for families in DeKalb County, where the 37-year-old entertainer was arrested last October following a fight with a customer. Ritchie was scheduled to serve food to Waffle House customers Tuesday but changed plans when he realized he would only have time to sign autographs before his concert scheduled for later in the evening at nearby Gwinnett Arena.

Ritchie said he wanted to make up for the fight.

"The whole situation before was kind of silly," he said as he signed autographs for fans. "We just thought after that unfortunate incident we'd try to do something silly but something more positive."

With posters, CDs, guitars and hats in hand, the line of Kid Rock fans snaked around the building for hours waiting for an autograph and photo with the hick-hop star.

Some of the fans drove hundreds of miles to see him.

First in line: Ashley Miles, 21, from Morgantown, W. Va., and her mother, Terri Miles, from Maryland. They arrived at 8:30 p.m. Monday, set up chairs and waited all night.

"I love him; he is gorgeous," the daughter said.

Next in line: Alisha Mullen and husband Wes Mullen, who arrived at 3:30 a.m. from Point Pleasant, W. Va. They brought sons Carson Taylor, 7, and Brady Taylor, 10.

When asked what he would say to Kid Rock, Carson smiled and said, "I'm a cowboy, baby," mimicking Ritchie's hit song.

Police say Ritchie's tour bus had stopped at another area Waffle House on Oct. 21 after a performance in downtown Atlanta; an exchange of words with a customer escalated into a fight that spilled from the restaurant out into the parking lot.

Officers took Ritchie and five members of his entourage into custody about a mile down the road after the group left the Waffle House.

It's not Ritchie's first public altercation. About a month before the Waffle House incident, he was cited in a police report for misdemeanor battery after he was accused of slapping and punching Motley Crue drummer Tommy Lee at the MTV Video Music Awards in Las Vegas. (Both musicians are ex-husbands of Pamela Anderson, who was a presenter at the show.) Charges were never filed in the case.

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 Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:10 9:50
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 Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:10

Omar Sharif, Steven Strait
 Drama, Adventure • Rated PG13

Synopsis

In a remote mountain tribe, the young hunter D'Leh has found his heart's passion—the beautiful Evolet. But when a band of mysterious warlords raid his village and kidnap Evolet, D'Leh leads a small group of hunters to pursue the warlords to the end of the world to save her. As they venture into unknown lands for the first time, the group discovers there are civilizations beyond their own and that mankind's reach is far greater than they ever knew.



Rambo

Friday 4:10 7:15 10:00
 Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:15 10:00
 Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:15
 Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:15

Sylvester Stallone, Julie Benz
 Action, Adventure • Rated R

Synopsis

John Rambo has retreated to northern Thailand, where he's running a longboat on the Salween River. On the nearby Thai-Burma (Myanmar) border, the world's longest-running civil war, the Burmese-Karen conflict, rages into its 60th year. But Rambo, who lives a solitary, simple life in the mountains and jungles fishing and catching poisonous snakes to sell, has long given up fighting, even as medics, mercenaries, rebels and peace workers pass by on their way to the war-torn region.



Semi-Pro

Friday 4:25 7:30 9:35
 Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:30 9:35
 Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:30
 Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:30

Will Ferrell, Woody Harrelson
 Comedy, Sports • Rated R



Vantage Point

Friday 4:15 7:00 9:45
 Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:00 9:45
 Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:00
 Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:00

Dennis Quaid, Forest Whitaker
 Drama, Thriller • Rated PG13



Bahay Kubo

Friday 4:20 @ @
 Saturday 1:15 4:20 @ @
 Sunday 1:15 4:20 @ @
 Mon thru Thurs 4:20 @

Maricel Soriano, Eric Quizon
 Comedy, Drama • Rated NR



Untraceable

Friday @ @ 7:05 9:55
 Saturday @ @ 7:05 9:55
 Sunday @ @ 7:05 9:55
 Mon thru Thurs @ 7:05

Diane Lane, Billy Burke
 Drama, Thriller, Crime • Rated R



The Spiderwick Chronicles

Friday 4:00 7:20 9:30
 Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:20 9:30
 Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:20
 Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:20

Seth Rogen, Mary-Louise Parker
 Fantasy, Children • Rated PG13



Jumper

Friday 4:05 7:25 9:40
 Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:25 9:40
 Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:25
 Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:25

Hayden Christensen, Samuel L. Jackson
 Adventure, Sci-Fi • Rated PG13

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Jackson gets flu, bails from 'SNL' show



Janet Jackson poses backstage during an appearance on MTV's "Total Request Live", in this Feb. 26, 2008, file photo in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Janet Jackson has dropped out of her upcoming "Saturday Night Live" performance because she has the flu, the singer's representative said Tuesday.

"Janet did go to the hospital last night due to the fact she's been suffering from this flu that's kicked a lot of people's behinds," publicist Patti Webster told The Associated Press in an e-mail. "She was never admitted and she is fine."

Site plans hundreds of TV shows online

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hulu.com, a joint venture between News Corp. and NBC Universal, plans to open its vast online library of ad-supported TV shows and movies to the public on Wednesday, the company announced.

Users of the service will be able to view more than 250 full-length episodes of shows such as "The Simpsons" and "The Office," as well as some 100 movies, including "The Big Lebowski" and "Ice Age."

Short clips from films and TV shows such as "Napoleon Dynamite" and "Saturday Night Live" are also available through the service, which is accessible at Hulu.com, as well as

Still, Webster said Jackson—who visited a Los Angeles hospital—was pulling out of the March 15 "SNL" telecast because "she needs some time to get better."

"SNL" spokesman Marc Liepiss said he did not know what music act will replace Jackson.

Jackson, 41, was scheduled to perform live Saturday night in support of her latest album, "Discipline," which was released last month.

on America Online, Yahoo and other popular Web portals.

The public debut of Hulu, which has been available to a test group by invitation since October, comes as studios seek ways to make money providing online content.

The entertainment companies behind the service have been feuding with popular online video sites such as YouTube, where unauthorized clips from shows often appear.

The Hulu.com programming comes from 50 TV networks, movie studios and Web-based producers of content.

Viewers of some movies and TV shows are given a choice of advertisements to watch.

Sale of bike gets a push from owner up in heaven

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: From time to time you print letters about finding "pennies from heaven." Are you ready for another one?

Our daughter is adopting a little boy, and our other daughter was hosting a yard sale to raise money for the airfare to bring the child to this country.

My mother, a widow, had donated my father's racing bike. It was hard for her to let go of it because Dad had won many senior Olympic medals with it.

The bike sold the first day, and I immediately called Mom to tell her the news. Right after I hung up the phone with her, I looked down at the table where my grandsons had been helping me count change. In the middle of a pile of dimes was a penny. When I picked it up, I saw it was a "wheatie." Then I turned it over and couldn't believe my eyes. The date on the penny was 1918, the year my father was born.

Although this may not be your typical "pennies from heaven" story, I truly believe it was a penny from heaven—a message from Dad that he was glad to contribute to our yard sale and was with us in spirit.

—JACLYN IN BALLWIN, MO.

DEAR JACLYN: And don't ever let anyone try to convince you otherwise.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: When I went to my favorite restaurant recently, I noticed that the menu had changed. I asked our server if I could have an entree from the previous menu. She said she loved the dish too, and would ask the chef if he would make it for me. He agreed, and dinner was lovely.

My fiancé and I returned to this restaurant last night, and I told him I wanted to order my favorite dish again. He told me that ordering something not on the menu is rude. I don't see it that way. In fact, I would think that it would be regarded as a compliment to the chef because it meant I had enjoyed the way he prepared it for me before. Besides, the chef agreed to do it for me the last time we were there.

Who is right—my fiancé or me?

—CHEF'S SPECIAL FOR ONE

DEAR SPECIAL: Your fiancé may have been afraid that ordering something that was not on the menu would be more expensive, and that's why he objected. Also, if the restaurant was extremely busy that night, I could understand why asking for something "special" might be an imposition.

However, since the chef had prepared it for you before, and because restaurants are in the business of selling food, there was nothing "rude" about your request. The next time you call to make reservations, ask in advance if the chef can prepare your special dish for you.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I read your column every day, and I never see the grammar and punctuation errors I typically encounter. Are the letters you publish revised, or are only the most literate and conscientious people moved to write to you?

—ENGLISH TEACHER IN AUSTIN, TEXAS

DEAR ENGLISH TEACHER: Everyone who writes to me is "conscientious." However, there are some errors in spelling, grammar or punctuation in the letters that cross my desk.

My staff, my syndicate editors and I try to ensure that any errors are corrected before a letter appears in print. To perpetuate the errors by printing them would set a bad example or distract from the question being presented.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Clooney puts pressure on Olympic sponsor

LONDON (AP)—Hollywood star George Clooney has put pressure on an Olympic sponsor to speak out over China's foreign policy in Sudan.

Clooney promotes Omega Watches—one of the worldwide Olympic partners for the Beijing games.

"I have talked with Omega (about China) for over a year and will continue to talk to Omega," Clooney was quoted as saying on the BBC Web site on Tuesday. "I have and will go to the places I and China do business and ask for help."

Clooney has publicly spoken several times about the crisis in Darfur, Sudan, where more than 200,000 people have been killed and about 2.5 million people displaced in three years of fighting between African rebels and government troops allied with Arab militia known as janjaweed.

China is a major trading partner with Sudan, and Beijing has resisted United Nations attempts to force Sudan to accept U.N. peacekeepers in Darfur.

The push to link the Beijing Games to the Darfur crisis gained wide attention last month when Hollywood director Steven Spielberg said he could not in good conscience serve as an artistic adviser to the

opening and closing ceremonies.

"I have and will continue to ask China to use its considerable leverage with the government of Sudan."

Omega has been the official timekeeper for the Olympics since 1932—including the boycotted games in 1980 and 1984. Swatch Group chief executive Nick Hayek, whose company owns Omega, said executives had discussed the issue with Clooney.

"We have full respect for his strong engagement in the fight for the good cause and share his opinion, especially concerning Darfur, and we are proud to work with a person who has such high ethical views," Hayek was quoted as telling the BBC.

"It is our policy not to get involved in politics," he was quoted as saying, because it would not serve the cause of sport, which he called one of the noblest human endeavors "for creating understanding and peace all over the world."

Hayek said Omega would speak out on China's association with Sudan, but directly with high-level contacts rather than publicly.

"Of course, it is a continuous process but we do it the Swiss way of 'little strokes fell great oaks,'" Hayek said.



George Clooney arrives for the 80th Academy Awards in this Feb. 24, 2008, file photo in Los Angeles.

Judge says Fairplay must amend lawsuit

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Reality TV figure Jonny Fairplay will have to provide a court with more details about his tooth-busting dust-up with Danny Bonaduce before his lawsuit against producers of an awards show can go forward. "I think more facts should be set forth," Superior Court Judge Michael C. Solner ruled Tuesday.

Solner gave Fairplay, whose real name is Jon Dalton, 20 days to amend his complaint to explain why the producers of Fox Reality Channel's "Really Awards" were negligent and involved in the alleged battery.



Bonaduce

The lawsuit stems from an October 2007 altercation in which Fairplay, a competitor on "Survivor: Pearl Islands," jumped into Bonaduce's arms on stage during the awards show to give him a hug.

Bonaduce, 48, responded by tossing Fairplay over his shoulders. Fairplay landed face first, losing one tooth, breaking another and loosening two more.

Fairplay, 34, sued Bonaduce, Fox Reality Channel and the show producers for battery, negligence and emotional dis-

tress. He claims the producers encouraged Bonaduce to go on stage uninvited, did not provide security and failed to provide prompt medical care afterward.

Vicki Greco, a lawyer for Fox and the producers Natural 9 Entertainment, said Bonaduce's actions were unplanned and the companies were not responsible for the incident.

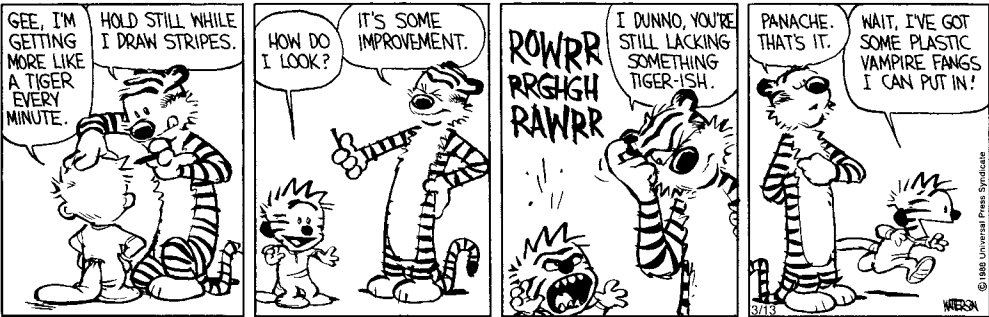
Fairplay's lawyer, Daniel C. Lapidus, claimed Bonaduce told the producers "what he wanted to do and they told him to do it."

Bonaduce, a child actor on "The Partridge Family," starred in the 2005 reality show "Breaking Bonaduce."

The next hearing in the case is scheduled for May 12.

Pastimes

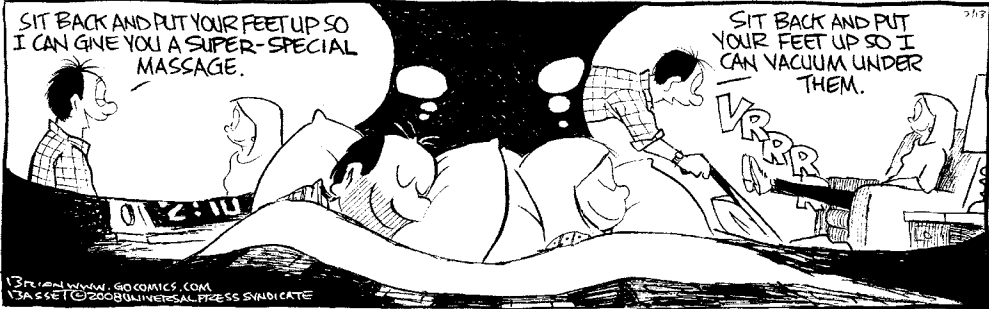
Calvin and Hobbes



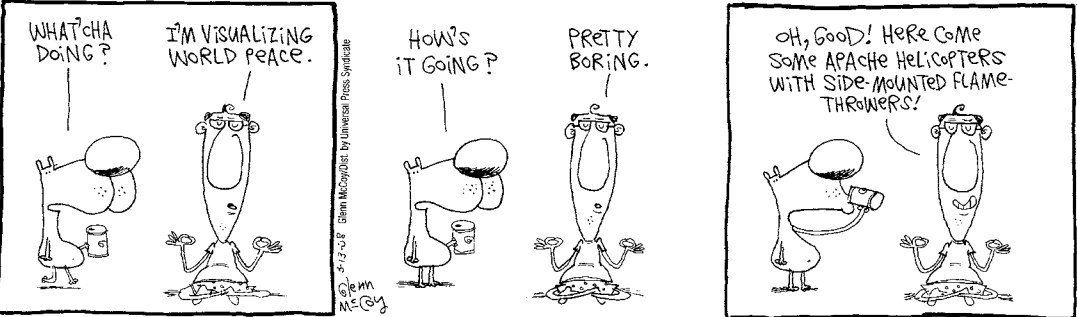
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ACROSS

1 Jokes

5 Actor

8 Tarry

12 Springy melody

13 Part of the head

14 Part of 13-Across

15 Hebrew month

16 CSA soldier

17 Trots

18 Put one's foot down

20 A billion years

22 One-piece undergarments

26 Code name?

29 Witticism

30 Cornfield cry

31 Longoria and Mendes

32 Chaps

33 Carvey or Delany

34 Bottom line

35 Play-ground game

DOWN

1 Pleased

2 Staffer

3 Glitz partner

4 Big name in waltzes

5 "Aida" composer

6 Nay

7 Beirut's land

8 Prized object

9 Kind of funny

10 Understand

11 Curvy character

19 Away from

21 NYC hrs.

23 Alpha opposite

24 Fail miserably

25 Vacillate

26 Waiter's handout

27 Pizzeria fixture

28 Sane

32 Largest of the Balearic Islands

33 Show

35 Potent stick

36 Firma-ment

38 New Zealand's —

39 Incubator sound

42 Put on the payroll

43 Maleficent

44 "Hud" Oscar winner

45 Sixth sense, for short

46 Seesaw quorum

48 "— Town"

Solution time: 25 mins.

M	E	T		C	A	D				
S	A	R	A		C	Y	N	I	C	
L	O	G	I	C		A	C	A	C	I
C	H	I	C	K	E	N	L	I	T	T
D	O	C		L	A	N	E	S		R
			V	E	R		B	O	H	R
			M	A	I	D	S		S	A
			Z	O	N	E		L	U	N
			I	N	K		Q	U	I	E
			P	E	A	N	U	T	B	R
			T	R	E	A	T		Y	
			A	T	S	E	A		U	N
			S	I	R		E	E	N	

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Adam Clayton, 48; Dana Delany, 52; William H. Macy, 58; Neil Sedaka, 69

Happy Birthday: Use common sense to finish what you start and do it well. Emotional matters will test your patience and lead you off-course if you let them. Keep things in perspective. A conservative approach to love and business will help you keep your life in order. Your numbers are 7, 13, 26, 38, 39, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You have to be comfortable with what you are doing and, if you haven't cleared up the past, it may be difficult to move forward. Do what needs to be done and don't look back. You will feel so much better once you clear up old, incomplete matters. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Stop sitting still when there is so much to do. Travel or at least look into possible destinations that will help you career-wise. You can't keep spinning your wheels hoping that something will drop in your lap. Take the initiative. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may feel like shaking things up today but it's best to let things unfold naturally. Your anxiety will lead to trouble, so keep busy with things that can benefit you financially and professionally. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Information is heading your way regarding a project you want to pursue. An experienced individual may have more wisdom than you think, so keep an open mind and listen. Don't let a change of plans throw you off-balance. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't waste time on trivial matters. It's what you do that counts, not what you say you will do. A partnership is apparent but be careful that the person in question has as much to contribute as you do. Get everything in writing. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Go big or go home should be your motto today if you want to make a difference. Changes to your position or status will be made possible by someone with clout. Don't miss out because you are too busy taking care of other people's problems. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take off on an adventure or try something different but, most of all, get out and mingle with people you find interesting. You will have a way with words that will captivate but don't exaggerate. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A change of plans will work to your advantage. You can make a crucial move or travel to a destination that will help provide you with the information and contacts you need to get ahead. Stop worrying and start doing. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You won't be emotionally grounded today so think before you do or say something you might regret. Making a change to spite someone will not be to your advantage. Your motives may be heading in the wrong direction. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Someone from your past will have gained enough experience to help you

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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finish something you have been struggling to finish. An emotional chord will be struck when a comment made by someone you least expect is brutally honest. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Use your imagination and make a few changes at home that will make your living quarters more functional. You can discuss matters that concern your personal life with whoever is most likely to influence your future. Be nice but clear about your needs. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Refuse to become upset by what others do or say. Criticism can be a good thing if you take it in the spirit it is meant. Don't rule out that you might need to make a few changes. This is no time to be stubborn. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are adventuresome, independent and learn quickly. You are thoughtful and won't give in to bribery or pressure. You are confident, insightful and dedicated.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	6			5						
		4	1							3
					8			4		
		8		9				1		
2			5	7	1					8
	3			6			7			
	7		3							
1						7	9			
				4				3		

Difficulty Level ★★★

3/13

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LASER ARENAS Solution: 7 letters

T	M	T	N	E	M	S	U	M	A	E	Z	I	S
R	O	O	D	N	I	L	T	T	Y	G	R	O	U
R	O	U	N	D	S	A	A	G	A	S	E	S	A
D	M	R	R	I	T	S	E	U	Q	D	P	L	A
Y	I	I	T	N	T	T	E	U	T	E	I	O	A
T	S	S	A	I	A	O	I	I	N	R	D	U	R
I	S	T	C	R	N	M	R	S	T	E	I	A	M
V	I	F	T	O	A	D	E	E	I	R	V	V	E
I	O	S	I	E	V	N	I	N	D	V	A	A	D
T	N	T	C	E	M	E	G	C	T	O	M	P	L
C	C	A	A	S	L	A	R	E	A	S	M	I	E
A	P	G	L	G	I	D	G	Y	A	T	R	E	V
S	S	L	O	O	H	C	S	F	N	H	O	G	E
T	A	B	M	O	C	C	E	N	T	E	R	R	L
W	M	A	P	S	R	O	T	A	L	U	M	I	S

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Action, Activity, Amusement, Armed, Base, Battle, Center, Combat, Discovery, Dome, Field, Game, Group, Indicators, Indoor, Lead, Levels, Maps, Mission, Mobile, Monitored, Parties, Play, Quest, Range, Rounds, Safe, Schools, Simulators, Size, Space, Sport, Stadium, Strategy, Suspense, Tactical, Teams, Thrill, Tourist, Tournament, Venue, Virtual, Visit, Walls

Yesterday's Answer: Shoes

WONDERWORD offers the "Book of Celebrities," for \$5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus \$3 postage for the first book order. \$1.00 for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6888. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	\$13.00
2nd position	\$5.00
Succeeding positions	\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY



Worldwide Company.
Need ambitious self-starters. Meeting at Fiesta Resort, 8:00PM March 13 or 9:00AM March 17.
Xango distributors welcome to bring guests.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished
1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water \$210/month,
near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

Need Properties.

We are looking for properties, house, building, apartment, etc. Interested owners please see Rayanne @ Yuta Office, Afetna Bldg., San Antonio beside Bank of Guam. Please come personally. No phone calls.

Wanted: 20 Security Guards
US Citizen. High School Graduate or Equivalent
Salary: Above Minimum Wage
Contact: **GTS Security**
@ 234-8803/04

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment for Rent in Aslito. Fully furnished, 24 hrs water. Safe location. Call 256-3864/287-7769

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 MASSEUR/MASSEUSE (THS 0018)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided; workmen's compensation provided & transportation self arrange. Contact: Editha G. Welle dba Cristelle's Beauty Parlor @235-4536.

2 BEAUTICIAN (THS 0019)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided; workmen's compensation provided & transportation self arrange. Contact: Editha G. Welle dba Cristelle's Beauty Parlor @235-4536.

1 CONSTRUCTION WORKER (THS 0020)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self housing; self food; medical & workmen compensation. Contact: Unicorn Corporation @322-3364.

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust have scheduled a Board of Trustees Special Meeting for **Friday, March 14, 2008 beginning at 6:30 PM at the Plumeria Room, Saipan World Resort; Saipan, MP.**

The following agenda is hereby established:

- I PRELIMINARIES**
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
- II CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
 - Natural Resources Standing Committee Comments
 - Office Space Matters
 - Investment Institute
- IV EXECUTIVE SESSION**
At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.
- V MISCELLANEOUS**
- VI ADJOURNMENT**

* It is anticipated that the following matters will be discussed under Executive Session in its entirety.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body.

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Alvaro A. Santos
Chairman, Board of Trustees

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

T R N

Find today's solution in this section

1 AUTO MECHANIC (THS 0021)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Joseph J.A. Pablo dba 3G's Services @233-7069.

1 DRESSMAKER (THS 0022)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; food not provided; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: JAP Professional Corp. dba Lenchies Fashion @285-9500.

1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (THS 0023)
Salary:\$3.05/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; food not provided; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Rolando Lagartos dba R&R Auto Repair Shop @285-9500.

1 IRONER (THS 0024)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; self arranged transportation to and from job; workmen's compensation & medical expenses. Contact: Shao Hongxia Jones dba Beauty Boutique & Dress Shop @287-8206.

1 A/C TECHNICIAN (THS 0025)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrangement housing; self arrangement food; workmen's compensation & medical provided by employer. Contact: Gonzalo V. Pangelinan Jr. dba Pacific Airconditioning @234-9267.

1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (THS 0026)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Kumanomi Island Co., Ltd. @233-6298.

1 WAITRESS/WAITER (THS 0027)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Kumanomi Island Co., Ltd. @233-6298.

1 GENERAL MANAGER (THS 0028)
Salary:\$2,000.00/monthly. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Treasures Inc. @233-3701.

1 ACCOUNTANT (THS 0029)
Salary:\$4.05-\$7.75/hour. Benefits: \$10.00-\$50.00/gas allowance; workmen compensation & medical insurance company provided. Contact: H.I.S. Saipan Inc. @234-7053.

1 SCUBA DIVING INSTRUCTOR (THS 0030)
Salary:\$3.05-\$3.55/hour. Ben-

WHATZIT Solution:
No U-turn

efits: Medical expense & workers compensation employer provided. Contact: Wondersea Saipan Inc. @233-7011.

1 POWER PLANT OPERATOR (TTH 0020)
Salary:\$3.55-\$5.12/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; workers compensation by employer; 80% employer & 20% employee for medical. Transportation is self-arranged.

2 ELECTRICIANS (TTH 0021)
Salary:\$3.55-\$6.69/hour. Benefits: \$5.00/mo. barracks maintenance fee; self provided food; free transportation to & from the job site; workers compensation by employer; 80% employer & 20% employee for medical.

1 DIESEL MECHANIC (TTH 0022)
Salary:\$3.55-\$5.48/hour. Benefits: \$55.00/mo. housing; self provided food; transportation is self arranged; workers compensation by employer; 80% employer & 20% employee for medical. Contact: Triple L Corporation dba Pacific Power House Co. at tel. no. 322-6183.

2 ELECTRICIANS (TTH 0023)
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.75/hour. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer.

1 MAINTENANCE MECHANIC (TTH 0024)
Salary:\$3.55-\$3.75/hour. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer.

1 CIVIL ENGINEER (TTH 0025)
Salary:\$3.55-\$7.10/hour. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer.

1 PROJECT ENGINEER (TTH 0026)
Salary:\$3.55-\$7.50/hour. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer.

1 DIESEL MECHANIC (TTH 0027)
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.75/hour. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer.

3 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS (TTH 0028)
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.50/hour. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer.

3 MASONS (TTH 0029)
Salary:\$3.55-\$3.75/hour. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer.

Hawaii Pacific University Marianas Alumni Chapter

1st Meet March 15, 2008
Hawaii Bar & Grill in Garapan
across Hyatt • 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Contact Jason Huang 287-5997
Coordinator

JOB OPPORTUNITIES**2 PROJECT ENGINEERS (TTH 0030)**

Salary:\$3.55-\$3.75/hour. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer.

1 CIVIL ENGINEER (TTH 0031)

Salary:\$2,000.00/month. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer.

2 CARPENTERS (TTH 0032)

Salary:\$3.55-\$3.75/hour. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer.

1 DRAFTER (TTH 0033)

Salary:\$3.55-\$4.25/hour. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: GPPC, Inc. at tel. no. 234-7900.

1 SALES SUPERVISOR (TTH 0034)

Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer.

1 GRAPHIC ARTIST (TTH 0035)

Salary:\$700.00 - \$1,500.00/month. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: ICIMA Corporation dba Made is Saipan at tel. no. 322-5123.

1 AUTO PARTS CLERK (TTH 0036)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Rajamsbelle Auto Parts & Service at tel. no. 235-8656.

1 AUTO PARTS MANAGER (TTH 0037)

Salary:\$950.00/month. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer.

1 AUTO TINTER (TH 0038)

Salary:\$950.00/month. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Golden Crown Corporation dba Super Saver Auto Supply at tel. no. 235-0129.

1 COMPUTER PROGRAMMER (TTH 0039)

Salary:\$3.55-\$4.25/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: ABA Corporation @322-4447.

1 BAKER HELPER (TTH 0040)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; employee provided food; allowance of \$80.00/monthly; workmen's compensation & medical. K's Company Limited dba Wow Pao Pastries @233-7266.

1 PASTRY BAKER (TTH 0041)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: \$80.00/monthly allowance. Contact: K's Company Limited @233-7266.

BEAUTICIAN (TTH 0042)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provide food; medical per CNMI Law & workmen's compensation. Contact: Rosa I. Ichihara dba LKR Rosa de Salon @235-7850.

1 OPERATION MANAGER (TTH 0043)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; food not provided; medical & workmen's compensation provided.

tion provided. Contact: Janvier Corporation dba Janvier Tailoring @285-9500.

2 COOK (THS 0031)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman compensation. Contact: Bobbie's Café @235-2624.

1 KITCHEN HELPER (THS 0032)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employee self arranged housing; employer provided food; the employee is provided with workmen's compensation insurance & medical expenses are reimbursable. Contact: Yolanda O. Alfante dba Kuli's Enterprises @234-2412 or 235-1105.

1 COOK (THS 0033)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employee self arranged housing; employer provided food; the employee is provided with workmen's compensation insurance & medical expenses are reimbursable. Contact: Yolanda O. Alfante dba Kuli's Enterprises @234-2412 or 235-1105.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (THS 0034)

Salary:\$3.05/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical. Contact: Universal Developers @322-5881.

1 HOUSEWORKER (THS 0035)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Gary Cabrera & Jing Cabrera @234-1004.

1 GEN. MANAGER (THS 0036)

Salary:\$1,000.00-\$3,000.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food & workmen's compensation. Contact: Nippon Travel Agency dba Nippon Travel Agency @233-3719.

1 PAINTER (THS 0037)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Luisito Baltazar dba Konstruk Builders @888-4312.

1 FISHERMAN (THS 0038)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Luisito Baltazar dba Konstruk Builders @888-4312.

1 AUTO MECHANIC (THS 0039)

Salary:\$4.25/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Venture Transportation CNMI dba Budget Car Rental @234-3347.

1 INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (THS 0040)

Salary:\$3.55-\$7.00/hour. Benefits: \$175.00/monthly housing benefit; self provided food; medical insurance & workers compensation coverage. Must pass a periodic drug test. Able to lift 60 lbs. Contact: Fleet Marine, LLC dba Fleet Marine Trading @233-0744.

1 WELDER (THS 0041)

Salary:\$5.00-\$7.00/hour. Benefits: \$175.00/monthly housing benefit; self provided food; medical insurance & workers compensation coverage. Contact: Fleet Marine, LLC dba Fleet Marine Trading @233-0744.

1 PHARMACIST (THS 0042)

Salary:\$5.76-\$6.05/hour. Benefits: Free of charge housing; self provide food; w/transportation service; workmen compensation & medical expense. Contact: Saipan Employment Agency Svcs Inc. @234-7327.

1 BLDG. MAINTENANCE (THS 0043)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: ER

provided housing; self provide food; workmen compensation & medical expense. Contact: Saipan Employment Agency Svcs Inc. @234-7327.

1 CASHIER (SUPERVISOR) (THS 0044)

Salary:\$3.55-\$5.75/hour. Benefits: \$30.00/monthly deduction housing; medical coverage expense; vacation leave (earned after 1 yr. of service); sick leave (earned after 180 days of service); compassionate leave; employees discount & workers compensation. Contact: Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. dba Saipan Grand Hotel @234-6601.

1 BARTENDER (SUPERVISOR) (THS 0045)

Salary:\$3.55-\$5.75/hour. Benefits: \$30.00/monthly deduction housing; medical coverage expense; vacation leave (earned after 1 yr. of service); sick leave (earned after 90 days of service); compassionate leave; employees discount & workers compensation. Contact: Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. dba Saipan Grand Hotel @234-6601.

1 ACCOUNTANT (ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE) (THS 0046)

Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; medical

coverage expense; vacation leave (earned after 1 yr. of service); sick leave (earned after 90 days of service); compassionate leave;

employees discount & workers compensation. Contact: Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. dba Saipan Grand Hotel @234-6601.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT****REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP08-CRM-047****SUBMISSION: APRIL 03, 2008****TIME: 4:00 P.M.****"COMPILATION OF A CNMI CORAL REEF CURRICULUM FOR THE
COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OFFICE"**

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCED IS CLAIMED.

ALL INQUIRIES REGARDING THIS RFP SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO REINA CAMACHO, CORAL REEF EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR, AT FAX 664-8540, OR E-MAIL TO reinacamacho@deggov.mp.

/s/ JOHN B. JOYNER, Ph.D
DIRECTOR, CRMO

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

The Saipan Tribune now offers Classified Ads Super Saver Package

for Print and Online Editions

A complete 7-day run for car sales, employment, garage sales, apartment rentals, announcements, lost and found, business services, and more...

3-LINER AD**\$25****3-LINER AD
W/ PHOTO****\$45****5-LINER AD****\$35****5-LINER AD
W/ PHOTO****\$55**

Get results. Advertise now!

Call now at **235-2769**
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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Jamison, Young rally Wizards past Bucks



WASHINGTON (AP)—Antawn Jamison scored 23 points, rookie Nick Young had a career-high 22, and the Washington Wizards rallied in the fourth quarter Tuesday night for a 105-97 win over the Milwaukee Bucks.

The Wizards sliced and diced through the Bucks' defense to shoot 50 percent with 66 points in the paint, giving the team a much-needed lift following Saturday's dispiriting home loss to Charlotte.

The victory moved Washington, eager to hold onto sixth place in the Eastern Conference, 1 1/2 games ahead of charging Philadelphia.

Michael Redd scored 26 points, Andrew Bogut had 23, and Charlie Villanueva had 24 points and matched a season high with 16 rebounds for the Bucks, who lost for the sixth time in seven games with another lackluster defensive performance. Milwaukee's opponents are averaging 111 points and shooting better than 50 percent in the last seven games.

The score was tied at 83 with 9 minutes remaining, but three-point plays from Darius Songaila and Young started a 12-2 run that built the lead to double digits with 6 1/2 minutes left. Young drew contact on a baseline drive between Bogut and Dan Gadzuric, but still found space to put up a shot that tantalizingly dropped off the rim and into the net.

The first-round draft pick from Southern California surpassed his previous best of 19 points with another three-point play, converting the free throw after driving for a layup to put the Wizards ahead 103-91 with 1:35 remaining.

The Wizards are 1-1 to start a five-



Washington Wizards' Nick Young, center, celebrates with teammate DeShawn Stevenson, left, as Milwaukee Bucks' Michael Redd, right, walks away in the final minutes of the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, March 11, 2008, in Washington.

game homestand as they attempt to tread water until injured stars Gilbert Arenas (knee) and Caron Butler (hip) return. Arenas was cleared for full practice last week and Butler was back at practice Monday, although there is no timetable for either to return to the lineup.

The Wizards did pretty much whatever they wanted on offense in the first half. They had 10 dunks, shot 55 percent, and 42 of their 57 points came in the

paint. Near the end of the half, Dominic McGuire hustled to save an offensive rebound along the end line and fed Brendan Haywood, who dribbled with no resistance to the net for a dunk.

The Wizards led 57-44 at halftime, but the second half had an inauspicious start when Haywood missed a dunk. Royal Ivy hit a 3-pointer at the other end, starting a 19-6 run that tied it at 63. The Bucks shot 71 percent

in the third quarter, with Bogut going 5-for-5, Redd 3-for-4 and Ivey 3-for-3.

But Redd was the only player who kept his hot hand in the fourth. He scored 13 of Milwaukee's 20 points in the final period.

Pacers 114, SuperSonics 107

At Indianapolis, Mike Dunleavy scored 32 points and Indiana snapped a three-game losing streak and sent Seattle to its fifth straight loss.

Danny Granger added 23 points, Troy Murphy had 19 points and nine rebounds and Travis Diener had 11 points and nine assists for the Pacers.

Kevin Durant scored 27 points and reserve Nick Collison added 15 points and eight rebounds for the Sonics.

Bulls 108, Jazz 96

At Chicago, Drew Gooden tied a season high with 24 points, Ben Gordon added 19, and Chicago snapped Utah's five-game winning streak.

Gordon hit several key 3-pointers, including two late in the third and one midway through the fourth after the Jazz pulled within 10. That was enough to offset strong performances by Utah's Mehmet Okur (22 points, 18 rebounds) and Deron Williams (20 points, 10 assists).

Trail Blazers 103, Timberwolves 96

At Minneapolis, Brandon Roy had 27 points and nine assists, playing biggest during a game-deciding 12-2 run in the fourth quarter to lift Portland past Minnesota.

Al Jefferson scored 12 of his 20 points in the fourth and Rashad McCants had 18 off the bench for Minnesota, which hovered around 55 percent shooting for

most of the game but couldn't come up with the big shot down the stretch.

Suns 132, Grizzlies 111

At Phoenix, Amare Stoudemire scored 29 points and grabbed 13 rebounds in 30 minutes, and Phoenix beat Memphis for the eighth time in a row.

Raja Bell added 20 points, including 18 in the third quarter, for the Suns, who shot 60 percent, led by as many as 32 in the first half and 39 in the second and won consecutive games for the first time since Shaquille O'Neal joined the lineup 11 games ago.

Rudy Gay, who scored a career-best 36 when the teams met in Memphis on Feb. 26, led the Grizzlies with 20.

Lakers 117, Raptors 108

At Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 10 of his 34 points in the final 8 1/2 minutes, Lamar Odom added 20 points and nine rebounds, and the Los Angeles Lakers beat Toronto to regain the top spot in the Western Conference.

Bryant also had seven rebounds and seven assists for the Pacific Division-leading Lakers (45-19), who have won 18 of their last 22 and lead San Antonio by a half-game.

T.J. Ford scored all but four of his 28 points in the second half for the Raptors.

Warriors exercise option on Don Nelson

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—The Golden State Warriors exercised the option Tuesday to keep coach Don Nelson under contract for the 2008-09 season.

The two sides reworked Nelson's deal last September, giving the coach a raise in exchange for turning the third year of his contract into a team option.

The Warriors (39-23) put together one of their best seasons on years, and the team decided to guarantee Nelson a reported \$5.1 million for next season. Golden State began the day in eighth place in the difficult Western Conference, 2 1/2 games ahead of Denver for the final playoff spot.

"We're extremely pleased with the job that Don has done this season," team president Robert Rowell said. "He's done a terrific job of building on last year's success and certainly has our team in position to challenge for another exciting post-season journey."

The 67-year-old Nelson is the second-winningest coach in NBA history with 1,271 wins, trailing only Lenny Wilkens (1,332) on the all-time list.

During his second stint with Golden State, he has guided the Warriors to a combined 81-63 regular season record. He helped the team end a 12-season playoff drought last year when the Warriors became the first No. 8 seed to beat a No. 1 seed in a best-of-seven series.

After the upset against Dallas, Golden State lost a five-game series in the second round to Utah.

Beckett may not make Tokyo trip for Sox



FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP)—Time is running out on Josh Beckett's slim chance of traveling to Tokyo to pitch in Boston's first two regular-season games.

The Red Sox ace who led the majors with 20 wins last year has yet to pitch in a regular exhibition game, and his back injury might keep him from doing that. Plus, sitting on a plane for the long flight to Japan next Wednesday wouldn't be very comfortable.

"The one thing we're not going to do is send him over there to pitch three innings and hurt his back," manager Terry Francona said Tuesday.

The Red Sox have two exhibition games against Japanese teams before facing the Oakland Athletics in regular-season games March 25 and 26.

Beckett hasn't been able to stretch since he felt back spasms while throwing his first warmup pitch before Saturday's game against the Florida Marlins, Francona said. The right-hander threw a total of six warmup pitches and left before the game started.

Tests showed the injury was muscular. "I don't think we know (for sure) yet" whether Beckett will pitch in Japan, ESPN.com quoted Francona as saying. "But

we're certainly not going to rush him back to pitch a game March 24 if he's not ready. And I think if you look at it with common sense, he's not going to pitch over there."

No decision has been made on whether Beckett will go to Japan, Red Sox spokesman John Blake said after talking with Francona about the report.

Last May, Beckett missed two starts when he tore skin on his right middle finger, an injury known as an avulsion.

"Last year, when he had that avulsion, we didn't run him out there when we probably could have, because we didn't think it made sense," Francona said before Tuesday's 4-3 win over the New York Mets. "So, with something like this, we'll do the same thing and use good judgment. It's not always easy, but it's the right thing to do."

Beckett stood in the dugout and watched Tuesday as his teammates stretched before the game.

He felt "better today than I was yesterday," he said. "I got a good night's sleep."

But he's pitched just two innings against Boston College and three innings in a "B" game against the Minnesota Twins.

The Red Sox want to use Daisuke Matsuzaka in one of the first two games

against Oakland, although his wife is due to give birth on March 19 in the United States. He wants to attend the birth, so he might travel to Japan after the rest of the team.

Candidates to replace Beckett are Jon Lester and Tim Wakefield.

"I haven't heard anything about it," Wakefield said after allowing two runs in four innings Tuesday. "As far as I know, I'm scheduled to pitch the second exhibition game."

Lester struggled in his first two exhibition outings, then was sharp in four scoreless innings Monday in a 1-1 tie with the Mets in 10 innings.

Francona had said the two pitchers who face the Athletics in Japan also could pitch against them in the next two regular-season games April 1 and 2.

"There's a lot of different options for sure, but we'll just get to one first," Francona said. "We'll be fine."

Beckett started 30 games last year, going 20-7 with a 3.27 ERA. He won his first seven starts and was 9-0 before losing to Colorado on June 14. In the opener of the Red Sox sweep of the Rockies in the World Series, he allowed one run and six hits in seven innings of Boston's 13-1 victory.

Now he's trying to get healthy

Restraining order against Moss dropped



MIAMI (AP)—A woman who obtained a restraining order earlier this year in a domestic violence case against New England Patriots star Randy Moss wants the case dismissed, court records show.

Rachelle Washington, 35, filed papers March 3 with the Broward County Circuit Court clerk's office requesting that the order be dissolved and the case closed. The restraining order had required the All-Pro wide receiver to stay at least 500 feet from Washington.

Moss, 31, denied he harmed Washington as she claimed at her Florida home on Jan. 6, or that he prevented her from seeking medical attention. Moss did acknowledge there was an "accident" involving Washington, but would not be more specific.

Moss attorney Richard Sharpstein said Tuesday his client was "extremely pleased" by the outcome. Moss plans to submit a claim to his insurance company for medical bills for services such as X-rays that Washington had for a hand injury, Sharpstein added.

"There has finally been acknowledgment that the injuries were not intentionally inflicted," Sharpstein said. An attorney for Washington said "no such acknowledgment exists."

Washington had been acting "solely on the advice of her former attorney"

when she filed temporary restraining orders, Darrell Thompson said in a statement.

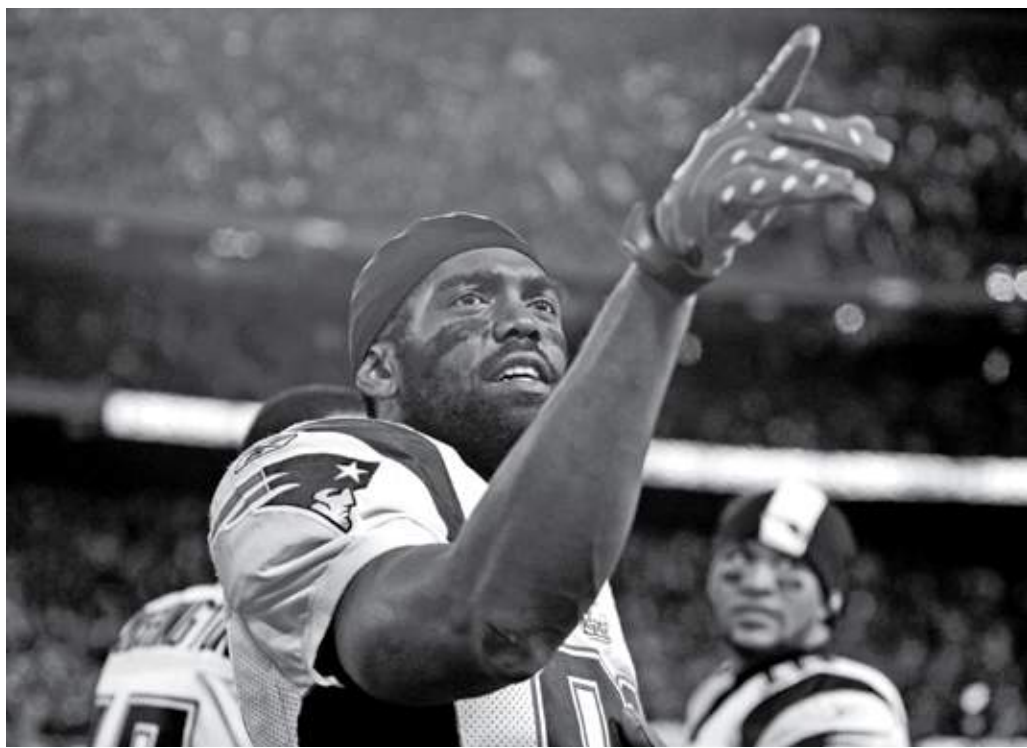
"She has decided that such restraining order is unnecessary," Thompson said. "Because the injuries sustained were not the result of any malicious intent by Mr. Moss, a claim for her damages will be submitted to his insurance company."

The restraining order was issued Jan.

figures" before taking legal action. He acknowledged knowing the woman for about 11 years.

"In my whole entire life of living 30 years, I've never put a hand on one woman, physically or in an angry manner," Moss told reporters in mid-January.

Moss has had other off-the-field problems in his 10 years in the NFL, including a 2002 incident in which he bumped a traffic control officer with



New England Patriots wide receiver Randy Moss (81) during an NFL football game at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., in this Dec. 29, 2007 photo. AP

14 after Washington accused Moss of "battery causing serious injury" in a civil domestic violence case. It came just as the Patriots were making their playoff run to the Super Bowl and angling for an undefeated season, which ended in a loss to the New York Giants.

Days before the AFC championship game, Moss said the claims were "false allegations" and that Washington had demanded a payment of "six

his car and another in 2001 when he verbally abused corporate sponsors on a team bus. But since his acquisition by the Patriots last April, he has been viewed as a team leader.

He had another stellar year on the field in 2007, catching 98 passes for 1,493 yards and an NFL-record 23 touchdowns. For his career, Moss has 774 receptions for 12,193 yards and 124 touchdowns.

Cards, WR Fitzgerald agree on \$40M deal

PHOENIX (AP)—Two-time Pro Bowl wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald signed a \$40 million, four-year contract with the Arizona Cardinals on Tuesday just before leaving on a South American vacation he surely can afford.

The deal includes \$30 million guaranteed, a generous figure for a franchise that was long considered one of the stingiest in sports.

The contract also includes a no-trade clause, which means Fitzgerald would have to approve any move to another team.

"This is what I wanted to happen," he said on a conference call during an airport layover. "There was a great deal of dialogue through this whole process and everybody got what they wanted."

The Cardinals wanted to restructure Fitzgerald's incentive-laden rookie contract because he had reached many of the benchmarks and was to receive \$14.6 million in 2008 and just under \$17.4 million in 2009.

Those figures left the Cardinals with hardly any room under the salary cap to sign free agents. In addition, the contract locks up Fitzgerald through 2011, when he still will be only 28 years old.

"Our commitment was to make sure we continue to make progress with our football team, and we feel good about the fact that we were able

to keep a player of Larry's caliber," general manager Rod Graves said. "We are going to continue to do that with all our core players."

Earlier, the team placed the franchise tag on linebacker Karlos Dansby, but Graves has said efforts will continue to sign him to a long-term deal.

Fitzgerald, a one-time ballboy for the Minnesota Vikings, led the NFC in receptions with 100 last season for 1,409 yards and 10 touchdowns, earning his second Pro Bowl bid in four seasons. At 24, he has 330 career catches for 4,544 yards and 34 scores in 60 games.

"When you have a player like Larry, who produces like Larry, your focus is going to be on keeping those players," said coach Ken Whisenhunt, who in his first season directed the Cardinals to an 8-8 record, their best mark since 1998.

He and Anquan Boldin have formed one of the league's top receiving tandems. Boldin also has made the Pro Bowl twice.

"When you have two receivers the caliber of Larry and Anquan, it makes it tough to defend you," Whisenhunt said.

Fitzgerald has said all along that he wanted to remain with Arizona, the team that chose him as the third pick overall out of Pittsburgh in 2004.

"Contract negotiations sometimes can go back-and-forth a lot, but I knew in my heart that the Cardinals wanted me to stay a Cardinal and I know that they knew I wanted to be a Cardinal," he said.

Fitzgerald was a lifelong friend of Dennis Green, who was fired as Cardinals coach a year ago. But he has warmed to Whisenhunt.

The two sat together courtside at Sunday's NBA game between San Antonio and Phoenix. There were many discussions between the two, Whisenhunt said.

"It was so helpful having someone I could talk to because he really talked to me and helped me understand, from a business standpoint, where the team was," Fitzgerald said. "But then he could also relate to me as a player. ... The more and more I talk to him, he is a man I want to go out and play for because he stands for something. I am happy to go out and play for a man like that."

Fitzgerald said he was anxious to get the deal done so attention would be diverted elsewhere.

"I am a guy who doesn't like to be in the spotlight," he said. "I would rather go unnoticed and do my job and help my team where I can and kind of go under the radar."

Plaintiffs' lawyers plan to withdraw Spygate lawsuit

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Lawyers for a former St. Louis Rams player and three fans plan to withdraw a lawsuit that accuses the New England Patriots of cheating in the 2002 Super Bowl.

In court papers filed Monday, the plaintiffs' attorneys say they sued last month in an attempt to secure sworn testimony from former Patriots employee Matt Walsh, who allegedly taped a walkthrough practice by the Rams before New England's Super Bowl win.

But the lawyers for former Rams player Willie Gary call it an "exercise in futility" because they suspect Walsh would exercise his constitutional right against self-incrimination if he is ordered to submit to a deposition.

On Monday, they asked a federal judge in New Orleans to dismiss the case. The case was filed in New Orleans because the Louisiana Superdome hosted the 2002 Super Bowl, which the Patriots won 20-17.

Eric Deters, one of Gary's attorneys, said they are reserving their right to refile the suit if they learn more about Walsh's alleged role in the Spygate episode.

"We're not giving up on the case," Deters said Monday. "We just want to back off and see what he has to say before we make a move."

On Sunday, the NFL announced that lawyers for Walsh and the league are nearing an agreement that would allow Walsh to be interviewed and turn over information to the NFL.

A lawyer for Walsh told The Associated Press on Sunday that he was hopeful an agreement could be reached that would give his client the

"necessary legal protections so (he) can come forward with the truth."

Last season, the NFL fined Patriots coach Bill Belichick \$500,000, the team \$250,000, and docked the Patriots a first-round draft pick after determining the Patriots illegally taped the New York Jets' defensive signals in Week 1. Belichick is a named defendant in the lawsuit.

Deters expects U.S. District Judge Ivan L. R. Lemelle to sign off on the dismissal.

"This is a pretty standard thing," Deters said. "It happens a lot in litigation."

The lawsuit accused the Patriots of fraud, unfair trade practices and engaging in a "pattern of racketeering." The plaintiffs wanted the case certified as a class action on behalf of anyone who purchased a Super Bowl ticket or attended the game; all Rams employees on the 2002 team; and any owner of a Rams seat license for the 2001-2002 season.

Gary was signed by the Rams as an undrafted rookie free agent in 2001 and released by the team in September 2002. He has played for the Arena League's Georgia Force since 2003.

Two fans who attended the 2002 Super Bowl and a Rams seat license owner also were plaintiffs in the suit.

Patriots spokesman Stacey James said the suit had no "factual or legal basis."

"Dismissal at this stage—before the complaint was even served—probably helps the plaintiffs' lawyers avoid being sanctioned. It was a publicity-driven, frivolous claim and I don't think anyone took it too seriously," James said in a statement.

Panthers WR Jarrett is hit with a DWI charge

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Carolina Panthers receiver Dwayne Jarrett's difficult rookie season on the field has given way to problems off it.

Jarrett, in town for the start of the team's offseason conditioning program, was arrested early Tuesday and charged with driving while impaired.

Jarrett was pulled over in the Charlotte suburb of Mint Hill at 3 a.m., said police spokesman Lt. Sergio Carrera. An officer spotted Jarrett's car cross the center line and run a red light, Carrera said. Jarrett later failed field sobriety tests before he was given a breath test.

"The officer then formed the opinion that Mr. Jarrett was impaired by alcohol," Carrera said.

Jarrett was taken to Mecklenburg County jail and later released on a \$1,000 bond. His first court date was set for Wednesday.

Carrera declined to give the results of the blood-alcohol test. A court spokesman said they had not received those documents.

If convicted, Jarrett could face disciplinary action under the league's personal conduct policy.

"We talked to Dwayne today and he and all our players understand that

these types of situations are unacceptable," Panthers general manager Marty Hurney said. "He certainly knows how we feel."

Jarrett's agent, Darin Morgan, declined comment.

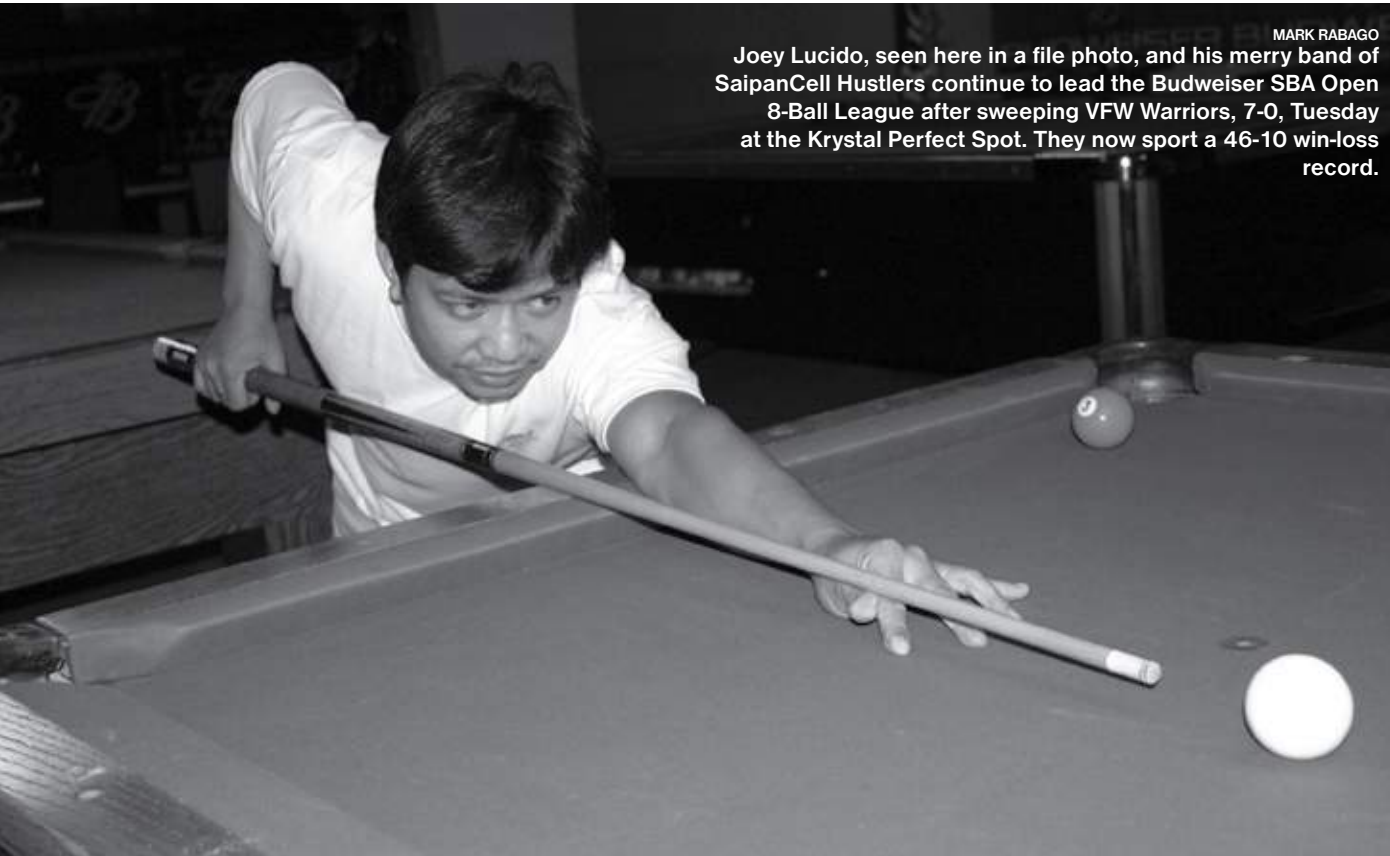
The Panthers selected the former Southern California star in the second-round of last year's draft. Three days later, the Panthers released veteran Keyshawn Johnson, believing the 6-foot-4 Jarrett would replace him as the No. 2 receiver opposite the smaller and speedy Steve Smith.

But Jarrett struggled to learn the playbook and adapt to the NFL game. He was beaten out for a starting job and even had trouble getting on the field on game days.

Jarrett was on the inactive list for six of the first eight games. He played more later in the season, but finished with only six catches for 73 yards and no touchdowns.

The Panthers signed veteran receiver Muhsin Muhammad last month, and Hurney indicated Muhammad could serve as mentor to the 21-year-old Jarrett, who holds the Pac-10 career record with 41 touchdown catches.

Extremists join Destroyers in second



MARK RABAGO
Joey Lucido, seen here in a file photo, and his merry band of SaipanCell Hustlers continue to lead the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League after sweeping VFW Warriors, 7-0, Tuesday at the Krystal Perfect Spot. They now sport a 46-10 win-loss record.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Porky's Extremists created a two-way tie for second place with Jonny's Destroyers even as the SaipanCell Hustlers widened its lead in Week 8 of the of the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League Tuesday night held in various bars on Saipan.

The Extremists scored a 5-2 win over Godfather's Magas to join Jonny's Destroyers at second to third place with similar 37-19 slates.

The Destroyers could have held on to second place but Extremists' sister team Wild Hogs dealt them a 2-5 decision.

The Extremists and Destroyers are two games ahead of the Wild Wild West (35-21) and enjoy a three-game lead over Porky's Wild Hogs (34-22).

While four teams are jostling for second place, the Hustlers are slowly pulling away after dealing VFW Warriors a 7-0 blanking.

Joey Lucido, Robert Sanciango, Erwin Gomez, Rowel Mariano, and Jerry Soriano did not drop

a game in their respective singles and doubles matches against the Warriors' Fred Camacho, Jordan Jucutan, Jun Cabrera, and Tany Barcinas, respectively.

Only Senen Pangelinan lost one game when Barcinas forced him into a tiebreaker in their opening 8-ball singles matchup.

The win hiked the Hustlers' record to 46-10 and they now enjoy a nine-game lead over their closest pursuers Extremists and Destroyers.

In other games, Coral Reef Shark Attack, Perfect Spotter, and Mr. Wonderful Shooters squeezed out similar 4-3 wins over USSP Fotten Palau, Len's 5 Bad Boyz, and USSP Wat-Ever, while Len's 5 Amigos and Wild Wild West scored 5-2 decisions against Coral Reef Barracuda and Wild Bill's Snipers.

Pacific Amusement, the same company that runs the leagues of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association, organizes the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League.

For more information about the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League and the SEDA leagues, contact league secretary Charlotte Tenepere at 233-4397.

Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes returns



The March Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes as well as the March Bing Energy Drink Prince and Princess of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament resumes next week at the Saipan Bowling Center in San Jose.

The two-day Budweiser February King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament will be held in March 16 and 17, Sunday and Monday.

Sunday's roll-off would begin as early as 3pm, while Monday's competition, starts

at 6pm. Registration starts 30 minutes prior to game time. Awarding ceremonies immediately follow the end of competition on Monday.

The competition is exclusive for SBA members with participants limited to the first 72 entries for each day.

Members have the option to bowl on the Sunday or Monday, or on both days, provided that the \$15 entry fee is paid. Bowlers who did not bowl on Sunday will be given priority for the Monday shift. Only the higher score will count for the tournament. All participants have to

pay the \$15 SBA annual membership fee.

The champion is guaranteed \$100 in prize money but it could go up to as much \$150 depending on the number of participants. Women participants will only have separate prizes if there are at least 10 entries.

Youth bowlers (12 to 19 years old, not bowling in any leagues or averaging less than 160 in any league) will only bowl on Sunday for the Bing Energy Drink Prince and Princess of the Lanes. Entry fee is \$10.

After being sponsor-less for the whole of 2007, the Saipan

Bowling Association's monthly King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament as well as its season-ending bowlfest has secured the help of MARPAC for this year's competition.

The Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament aims to crown 12 monthly champions through the course of the year.

For early registration and payment for the March tournaments, see or contact Gigi Zapanta at 288-5627 or e-mail zapanta@pticom.com. (Mark Rabago)

KOBLER

From Page 28

tau to consecutive grounders that was fielded cleanly by the Turtles.

Then came Magofna's single as the Koblerville designated hitter stole second to improve her chances of scoring the game-winning run.

Deleon Guerrero then took

Rabauliman's fifth pitch, finding a gap between second base and center field to allow Magofna score that ended the game.

It was a seesaw battle as both teams matched each other's intensity level and had several good defensive plays that brought cheers from both of their supporters.

At one point, Koblerville second baseman Rufina Sablan made a leaping catch of

a Mele'ani Cepeda line drive, while Oleai countered with a running catch by starting pitcher Judy Rose Ngirbedul of a Deleon Guerrero infield fly.

Koblerville scored three runs in the bottom of the first to grab the lead at 3-2 and battled to several deadlocks and lead changes before the Lady Umangs' late-game heroics.

Koblerville made it a double celebration when their boys team

scored a 16-1 crushing of Oleai.

Games today will have William S. Reyes facing Dandan with the girls match starting at 3:15pm. Tomorrow, San Vicente clashes with Tanapag.

Oleai won the girls division title after a 12-9 decision over the San Vicente Canaries, while Koblerville bagged the boys crown after a 9-3 triumph also against San Vicente in last year's finals.

AUSSIE

From Page 28

Field facility inside the Susupe Sports Complex where 19 OAA member federations and New Caledonia will be competing.

Joining host CNMI and associate member New Caledonia in the weeklong event are powerhouse teams Australia and New Zealand as well as OAA mem-

ber federations American Samoa, the Solomon Islands, the Cook Islands, Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Norfolk Island, Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, Tahiti, Guam, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

Adidas will be the major sponsor of the event and will be providing gear to all officials and athletes. Each team is allowed to bring eight athletes

and one coach.

This is the first time that a Micronesian nation will host a major track and field championship and the first time that Saipan will also host the Grand Prix Series.

West's visit is part of OAA executive director Yvonne Mullins' program of conducting seminars and trainings for all athletes, officials, and volunteers.

West is also Team Australia's

coaching coordinator in the 8th IAAF Oceania Open and Under 18 Championships held in Apia, Samoa in 2006.

He also trained athletes from the Federated States of Micronesia to prepare them in the 6th Micronesian Games on Saipan in 2006. He spent more than one month in Chuuk, Kosrae, Yap, and Pohnpei and conducted a series of athlete and coaches education and training.

TAGAKIDS

From Page 28

the adult Tagaman run course past the Marina, and turn around at the rear marina entrance to American Memorial Park and return to the transition area.

The run portion will be a one-kilometer run around AMP with the kids negotiating the course of the bike leg then turn around at the bell tower and come through the park, exit at AMP by the Hyatt Regency Saipan, and finish in the same lane as adult finishers.

The 9-12 age group (9-10 and 11-12) will begin the race at 8:10am and will do two laps of the swim, bike, and run portions of the race. They will have a 200m swim, 8K bike, and 2K run. Swimmers will exit the water and run up the beach for a second lap.

The registration fee is \$25

per child and all finishers will take home medals while the first placers in each age group will get trophies.

The final day of registration is on Friday, March 14, 4pm at the Marianas Visitors Authority office in San Jose. No more entries will be accepted after Friday.

Fil-Taga March Ace this Sunday



Fil-Taga Golfers Association will hold its March Ace of the Month Tournament this Sunday, March 16, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

According to tournament director Rey Ferraz, show time is set at 11am with tee-off time scheduled 45 minutes later at 11:45pm.

Fil-Taga's officers are led by president Jun Dela Cruz Jr., vice-president Jhun Calma, secretary Manny Po, and treasurer Guban.

Its board of directors is made up of Fr. Manny Corcuera,

Miguel Cruz, Jr., Ted Malaran, Gil Faller, Rey Ferraz, Greg De Torres, Rene Batallones, Nestor Siruelo, and George Sablan

Established in 1993, Fil-Taga's tournaments operate under a computer-controlled handicap system that creates parity among players in the A and B Flights.

A Fil-Taga Ace of the Month champion is crowned monthly. Regular tournaments are scheduled once a month, normally every third Sunday. Green fees are in the \$35 to \$40 price range for most tournaments. (Mark Rabago)

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	50	12	.806	—
Toronto	34	29	.540	16 1/2
Philadelphia	30	34	.469	21
New Jersey	26	38	.406	25
New York	18	46	.281	33

Southeast Division

Orlando	41	24	.631	—
Washington	31	32	.492	9
Atlanta	26	37	.413	14
Charlotte	24	39	.381	16
Miami	11	51	.177	28 1/2

Central Division

x-Detroit	46	17	.730	—
Cleveland	37	27	.578	9 1/2
Chicago	26	38	.406	20 1/2
Indiana	25	39	.391	21 1/2
Milwaukee	23	41	.359	23 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	44	19	.698	—
Houston	43	20	.683	1
New Orleans	42	20	.677	1 1/2
Dallas	41	23	.641	3 1/2
Memphis	15	48	.238	29

Northwest Division

Utah	42	23	.646	—
Denver	37	26	.587	4
Portland	34	31	.523	8
Seattle	16	48	.250	25 1/2
Minnesota	14	49	.222	27

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	45	19	.703	—
Phoenix	42	22	.656	3
Golden State	39	23	.629	5
Sacramento	28	35	.444	16 1/2
L.A. Clippers	21	41	.339	23

x-clinched playoff spot

Yesterday's Games

Indiana 114, Seattle 107
Washington 105, Milwaukee 97
Portland 103, Minnesota 96
Chicago 108, Utah 96
Phoenix 132, Memphis 111
L.A. Lakers 117, Toronto 108

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

SBA 8-Ball Standings

SaipanCell Hustlers	46	10
Porky's Extremists	37	19
Jonny's Destroyers	37	10
Wild Wild West	35	21
Porky's Wild Hogs	34	22
Len's 5 Bad Boyz	32	24
Mr. Wonderful Shooters	32	24
Coral Reef Shark Attack	32	24
USSP Fotten Palau	31	25
Wild Bill's Snipers	24	22
Godfather's Magas	22	34
USSP Wat-Ever	21	35
Perfect Spotter	21	35
Len's 5 Amigos	18	38
Coral Reef Barracuda	13	43
VFW Warriors	13	43

Night of wacky hairdos and party hats



Japan's Masato Samata, left, shows off his XTERRA World Championship form after topping the 30-34 age division in the 7th XTERRA Saipan Championship. Joining him is Taga Inc. president Wolf Mojica.



Florian Braig, left, poses with Taga Inc. president Wolf Mojica. Braig won the 55-59 division.



Hans Dieben, left, points to photographers while Taga Inc. president Wolf Mojica looks on during Saturday's banquet at PIC.



Manny Stichon shows off his XTERRA World Championship form after winning the 50-54 age division.



Top amateur Eli Torgeson, left, poses for photographers along with Nate "The Snake-man" Hawley, second left, and Lewie Tenorio. Torgeson won the 35-39 division.



Mark Walter, right, congratulates 45-49 division winner Japan's Shiro Sato, left, while Makoto Katayama looks on.

Right, new XTERRA Saipan Champion Andrew Noble, left, joins, from left, Jim Vance, Takashiro Ogasawara, and Taro Shirato pose for a group shot.



Far right, Federico Fernandez, right, enjoys a light moment with Taga Inc. president Wolf Mojica.



Four-time XTERRA Saipan champion Renata Bucher of Switzerland, left, poses with runner-up Mikeo Carey in last Saturday's banquet at the Pacific Islands Club.



Shane Jones, center, enjoys a light moment with brothers Rafael, left, and Angelo after completing the mixed team event of the XTERRA Sport course at American Memorial Park.

Photos and text by JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Participants of the 7th XTERRA Saipan Championship kicked back, relaxed, and partied the night away Saturday night, enjoying the fruits of their labor after a grueling race around Saipan's signature XTERRA course.

Last Saturday's party theme for the 7th XTERRA Saipan banquet at the Pacific Islands Club was a crazy hat or wig with almost all awardees that went up on stage donning their own hairdos.

Four-time women's champion Renata Bucher wore a swim cap adorned with colorful pieces of cloth, while runner-up and 2007 XTERRA World finisher Mieke Carey imitated Dennis Rodman's hair by wearing a colorful wig, which is a signature hairstyle of the former NBA superstar.

Russ Quinn looked like comedian Will Ferrell's double in the movie "Semi-Pro" when he went up on stage, along with teammates Jerry Diaz and Kai Staal, wearing a white afro wig to accept their award for finishing second in the men's team relay division.

Quinn's teammates, Diaz and Staal, would not be left out as they also wore their wacky wigs along with event host and announcer Jon Cramer, who wore a Rockstar hairpiece complete with a bandana tied around his head.

Nate "The Snake-man" Hawley, who placed second to Eli Torgeson in the 35-39 division, looked like former rock and roll band Guns 'N Roses guitarist Slash while the Goodwins, Tim and Tina, graced the occasion with a sky blue hairpiece and a pirate hat made famous by Johnny Depp as Captain Jack Sparrow in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" series.

Former Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation president Dirk Sharer looked like an Arabian sheik, while teammate Maimi Shimizu's could not wear her medal after it could not fit her huge afro wig.

PIC inhouse band Fat Joy Slim serenaded the night with their own acoustic rendition of old and new songs.



Night of wacky hairdos and party hats

Participants of the 7th XTERRA Saipan Championship kicked back, relaxed, and partied the night away on Saturday night enjoying the fruits of their labor after a grueling race around Saipan's signature XTERRA course.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Jamison, Young rally Wizards past Bucks

Antawn Jamison scored 23 points, rookie Nick Young had a career-high 22, and the Washington Wizards rallied in the fourth quarter Tuesday night for a 105-97 win over the Milwaukee Bucks.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

'Two clubs should be represented in NMSF'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White hopes the two swim clubs in the CNMI are represented in the islands' swimming federation.



In an email to the *Saipan Tribune*, White said while the NMSF is the sole representative of the sport of swimming in the CNMI, the federation should incorporate the more-established Saipan Swim Club as well as the fledgling Tsunami Swimming

Center Saipan.

"The NMSF should be representative of all swimming organizations, including SSC and Tsunami [Saipan]... NMSF needs to meet and elect a new board and officers to reflect the fact that there are now two active swim clubs, not one," he said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune* last week.

Reacting to the confusion that occurred during the NMSA monthly meeting last March 6, when SSC and Tsunami Saipan had separate nominations for the Athlete of the Month awards, White said SSC head coach Michael Stewart's nominations were

acknowledged rather than Tsunami Saipan president Stan Good's because the latter was the NMSF designee.

"NMSF has previously designated Mike Stewart to act for it with respect to NMSA. Unless and until it meets and elects new officers, or officially designates someone else, NMSA will continue to recognize Mike Stewart as its repre-



White

sentative," he said.

To his credit, Stewart went on to nominate Tsunami Saipan's Rezne Wong as Male Athlete of the Year for February and the record-breaking swimmer went on to win the plum in a tie with tennis' Ji Hoon Heo.

White continued, "Last night's [Thursday's] confusion was the result of a misunderstanding as to who could nominate Athletes of the Month. For the record, only sports federations (not individuals or organizations which are members of federations) have the right to nominate. As noted above, NMSA recognizes Mike Stewart as the representative of the federation, so I ruled

a nomination by another individual as out of order."

White said it is his hope that SSC and Tsunami Saipan will somehow work out their differences and that NMSF would become representative of both clubs.

"NMSF's internal organization is a matter for NMSF only. NMSA should not and will not become involved unless NMSF fails to be representative of CNMI swimming. I have every reason to believe that the two swim clubs will be able to work out their differences and arrive at a mutually satisfactory arrangement for governance of the federation," he said.

Kobler edges Oleai in elementary fast-pitch



JON PEREZ
An Oleai Elementary School batter connects with a single in their game against Koblerville in the 2nd Annual Elementary School Fast-pitch Softball League yesterday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



The Koblerville Lady Umangs stunned defending champion Oleai Lady Turtles, 7-6, in a rematch of last year's semifinals in the girls division of the 2nd Annual

Elementary School Fast-pitch Softball League yesterday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

The Lady Umangs won the game in dramatic fashion, scoring the needed run in the bottom of the sixth to deny defending champion Oleai its first win of the season.

Zoralyn Magofna, who singled and

stole second base, scored the game-winning run when Kiana Deleon Guerrero's single drove allowed her to reach home plate to the delight of her teammates.

The game seemed headed into extra innings when Oleai quickly got the two outs as pitcher Leilani Rabauliman forced Angela Achime and Nicole Bel-

See KOBLE on Page 26

Aussie coach trains NMA athletes, coaches

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Athletes and coaches from the Northern Marianas Athletics had the chance to learn from a retired track and field coach from Australia to prepare them for the upcoming Oceania tournament in June.

Terry West, who is already retired from coaching but works closely with the Oceania Athletics Association, has conducted several athletics and coaching clinics in his weeklong stay on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Retired Australian athletics coach Terry West watches over the drills being done by CNMI athletes in a training session yesterday at the Oleai Track and Field facility inside the Susupe Sports Complex.



West arrived on Thursday to help train and prepare CNMI tracksters in the 2008 Oceania Athletics Association Area Championships and Grand Prix Series, which Saipan is hosting in June.

The New South Wales native arrived last week and is scheduled to leave today to return to Australia and make a progress report about CNMI athletics.

West trained athletes, who are expected to be part of the CNMI National Team in the OAA Championships, everyday from 4pm to 6:30pm.

The daily drills include stretching and weight training to boost the performance of CNMI athletes.

He is expected to be back in the OAA Area Championships and Grand Prix Series from June 21 to 28. Saipan will be hosting the weeklong event at the Oleai Track and

See AUSSIE on Page 26

Tagakids to take place simultaneously with Tagaman

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



While adults are busy negotiating the Tagaman course, kids as young as five years old will test their skills in the Tagakids, which will be simultaneously held at the American Memorial Park.

Check in begins at 7am while sign up closes 45 minutes after. The race proper starts exactly at 8am. Organizers will not accept same day entries, while latecomers will not be allowed to join the competition.

The kids will race while participants in the Tagaman are out on the bike course and organizers cautioned everyone to

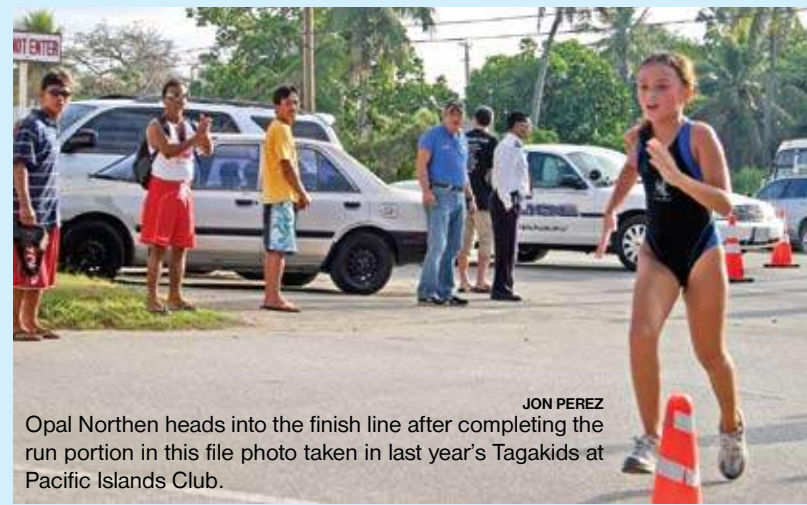
be very careful and be out of the way when the adult bikers are coming in.

The bike and run transition, and the finish line for the 19th Tagaman Triathlon will be at Micro Beach Park at AMP.

The 5-6 and 7-8 age divisions will begin the race in the Tagakids at 8pm where they will have a 100m swim around Micro Beach. Fins, snorkels or lifejackets are not allowed and child should know how to swim without assistance.

The bike leg is a four-kilometer course around AMP and organizers are not recommending kids to use a road bike. Participants in the bike course will head north on the gravel road past the public restrooms and cross over to the sidewalk, proceed over the bridge and follow the same run as

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JON PEREZ

Opal Northern heads into the finish line after completing the run portion in this file photo taken in last year's Tagakids at Pacific Islands Club.